

Church Maintenance and Ministry Planning

OC-15 Meeting

Sun 2 Aug 2026

Minutes submitted by Debbie Douglas

Members in attendance: Stacy Hinz, Nathan Hinz, Sam Owen, Karen Harris, Brian Douglas, Debbie Douglas, Tricia Schmidt, David Schmidt, Heather Ruthven, Drew Foreman, Victoria Abigail

- Nathan opened meeting with prayer
- **Facility Progress and Maintenance (Nathan reporting)**
 - Fellowship Hall is 90% complete, with painting the ceiling, finishing the wall, and setting up the audio-visual system still remaining.
 - The new shutters are expected to arrive in approximately two weeks, which is timely given the current hurricane season.
 - The Caring Kitchen has accepted a rent increase to \$3,600 and is aware of a further increase to \$5,000 coming next month; they are expected to vacate the space within 180 days.
 - The termite treatment is finished, and the church will maintain a \$149 monthly warranty to prevent future infestations; Stacy suggested creating a "Best Practices Bible" to ensure future councils maintain these essential service contracts.
 - The parking lot paving is currently stalled in the permitting process with the city, and the contingency plan is to perform the work during the November school break, as All County Paving can complete the project in three to five days. David noted that a new fencing strategy is needed for the upcoming Pumpkin Patch to avoid drilling holes into the newly paved parking lot.
- **Window Assessment and Handrail Repairs**
 - Red, the maintenance worker, discovered that the window mechanisms throughout the building are rusted and many panes have been screwed shut for decades, posing a potential fire code violation. Brian and Nathan discussed the need for an unofficial assessment of the windows to determine liability and egress requirements without triggering a formal city inspection. Heather agreed to ask Chet (Trustee member), with recommendations from Tricia, to coordinate with a window contractor for a free estimate and professional advice on the scope of the window issues.
 - The council discussed the front entryway handrail, which was recently damaged when a church member backed into it, smashing several bricks. The council voted (Debbie/motion; Stacy/second) to replace both existing

handrails with more substantial, code-compliant versions and to patch the damaged bricks with similar materials rather than re-designing the entire entryway.

- **Ministry Growth and Space Optimization**
 - Nathan announced a new partnership with Pastor Troy for a ministry called "Night of Freedom," which will meet the first Friday of every month and expects around 140 attendees. This is a related ministry through Recovery Church that has history at the former Good Shepherd UMC. Their format is food, games, preaching, baptisms, etc. They requested space and a "partnership" (see Administrative Updates below) with Cason and have been welcomed. As a ministry, this partnership doesn't require Council approval.
 - David and Drew discussed shifting the focus of the "Youth Room" to a multipurpose space, as the church currently sees more young children and young adults than middle school-aged youth. The question also arose about space for children when they do attend. Victoria and Nathan had four children in one of the Narthex rooms on a recent Sunday and stated a clear need for a larger space. The team suggested using bins and rolling carts to keep materials organized, allowing different age groups to utilize the same rooms effectively. The existing library (with shelves) is an example of multipurpose room. All spaces need to be multipurpose and flexible.
 - Drew (and "Andrew") has started a new initiative to pick up residents from sober homes and bring them to services, which has already begun to increase attendance.
- **Council Decisions and Administrative Updates**
 - Karen provided an update on the Best Practices group, noting that listening sessions are scheduled for September 19th, 26th, and 30th at various locations, including the parsonage and Stacy's house. A congregational survey will be finalized on Tuesday and sent out next week to gather feedback on church pillars and operations.
 - David brought up a fundraiser proposed by the United Women in Faith (UWF) involving a flea market; the council reached a consensus to deny this request due to manpower issues, parking constraints, and a desire to remain respectful of Trinity Church's existing fundraisers.
 - The council discussed a \$500 rental deposit that Andrea, the Rental Coordinator, withheld from a recent party due to a mess involving gummy bears. David and the council agreed to return the full deposit to the renters as an act of grace, and Heather (representing the SPRC) will email

Andrea to clarify that she does not have the authority to withhold deposits.

- The discussion regarding a formal partnership definition for ministries like Seekers was tabled for the next non-congregational meeting.
- Brian expressed frustration regarding the quality of recent projects, such as the wall between the sanctuary and the fellowship hall and the exterior door installed outside the Fellowship Hall closet, emphasizing that the church should prioritize professional craftsmanship over "handyman" fixes.
- Sam closed the meeting with prayer.