

New Ministry Initiative: Six-Month Update

As we reach the halfway point of 2026, we want to provide an update on the New Ministry Initiative and where we stand financially as a church.

Ministry Impact

Six months in, we are already seeing encouraging signs of impact.

- **Worship ministry** has been strengthened, with increased congregational participation, fresh leadership, and new opportunities for people to engage in Sunday worship.
- **Youth and young adults** are finding renewed opportunities for connection and discipleship. New young people are joining our church, and plans are underway to launch a Young Adult ministry this fall.
- **New connected relationships** are forming, volunteers are linking into leadership, and our capacity to become a “connected community” for people continues to grow.

At the beginning of 2026, many individuals and families stepped forward with extraordinary financial generosity to help launch this initiative. Through seed gifts and pledges, our church committed to investing in expanded ministry. Through June, we have received:

- \$41,700 in New Ministry Initiative seed gifts.
- \$20,000 transferred from church reserve funds.
- \$195,256 in regular Sunday and online offerings.

Six-Month Snapshot	
Regular Offerings	\$195,256
Seed Gifts Received	\$41,700
Reserve Transfer	\$20,000
Current Operating Balance	+\$16,842

Together, these resources have allowed us to launch the initiative while maintaining healthy ministry operations.

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An Important Reality

We believe transparency builds trust, and we want our church family to understand both the opportunities before us and the realities we are navigating together.

Some of the **seed gifts were given as one-time contributions or as accelerated gifts from donors** who chose to give a large portion of their annual commitment at the beginning of the year. We are deeply grateful for that generosity. At the same time, this means a portion of the funding that appears in our first-half numbers will not be repeated during the second half of the year.

While regular giving remains healthy, it is **currently below the level needed to fully sustain these expanded ministry investments** without the assistance of seed gifts and reserve funds. At this point, the initiative continues to be supported by a combination of regular offerings, seed gifts, and reserve funds.

The Encouraging News

The initiative is accomplishing exactly what it was designed to do. The purpose of the seed gifts and reserve funds was never to permanently fund these positions. Their purpose was to create a runway—a season in which we could strengthen ministry, build momentum, and grow toward long-term sustainability. Because of these gifts: Worship ministry has been strengthened. Youth and young adult ministry have received new attention and leadership. More opportunities for discipleship, connection, and pastoral care are being created. **The church currently maintains a positive year-to-date balance while these ministries are being established.**

Looking Ahead

The question before us is not whether the initiative is making a difference—we are already seeing its impact. The question is how we will continue building on that momentum in the years ahead.

As we move into the second half of 2026, our goal remains the same: to gradually transition from launch funding provided by seed gifts and reserves to **long-term sustainability through the faithful generosity and participation of our church family.**

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How Can I Help?

The New Ministry Initiative is not just about funding positions—it's about investing in people and creating opportunities for ministry that help others connect with Jesus and grow in faith.

Here are a few ways you can participate:

1. Begin Giving Regularly

If you are not currently giving, consider becoming a **regular financial partner** in the ministry of Davison Free Methodist Church. You can give online at dfmchurch.org/give or through in-person giving on Sundays. Consistent generosity from many people is ultimately what will sustain the ministry God is building here.

2. Consider a Seed Gift

Some individuals and families have chosen to **make special gifts** above and beyond their regular giving to help launch this initiative. If God has blessed you with the ability to do so, you may wish to explore:

- A one-time gift
- A six-month or year-end gift
- Gifts of appreciated stock or dividend-producing assets
- Other creative giving opportunities

If you would like to discuss these possibilities, please contact Pastor Shane.

3. Pray and Participate

Financial support matters, but ministry is never sustained by money alone. Pray for our staff, volunteers, ministry leaders, and the people we are seeking to reach. Continue inviting others, serving faithfully, and helping create a welcoming church where people can encounter the love of Jesus.

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What Happens Next?

We believe God has called us to this season of ministry, and we are trusting Him to continue providing through the generosity and partnership of our church family. **Our goal remains unchanged: to sustain this initiative through growing congregational support over the full three-year initiative and beyond.** At the same time, your Vision and Leadership Board has identified responsible options should they ever become necessary.

Available Reserves

The church currently maintains approximately \$104,000 in reserve funds. These resources were originally designated for future property improvements.* While those funds could be utilized if necessary, doing so would delay important facility investments and is not our preferred long-term strategy.

**see attached report on recent property improvement projects and future plans.*

Parsonage 2 Financing Option

The church has also received permission from FMCUSA to place a mortgage on Parsonage 2 if needed. This option could provide approximately \$140,000 in additional ministry funding. However, it would also introduce a long-term debt obligation and ongoing monthly payments. For that reason, we view this as a tool available to us—not as our preferred path forward.

Our Preferred Path

Our preferred path is simple: to see the New Ministry Initiative become sustainable through the faithful generosity and partnership of the people who call Davison Free Methodist Church home. We believe the healthiest future is one in which the ministry we are building together is supported by the congregation it serves.

We are grateful for every person who has prayed, served, given, invited a friend, joined a group, welcomed a newcomer, or invested in the life of our church. The New Ministry Initiative has always been about more than finances—it is about creating a church where more people can connect with Jesus, grow in faith, and find community. Thank you for being part of that story.

~ Pastor Shane Bengry, Lead Pastor & Vision and Leadership Board, DFMC

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PROPERTY IMPROVEMENTS

Project Name	Amount Spent	Explanation
Electrical Panel Upgrade	\$ 33,500	Required by insurance
Room 205	\$ 15,471	Repairs from flooding issue
Children's Ministry	\$ 2,030	Classroom Improvements
Coffee Bar Renovation	\$ 837	Update
Classroom Renovation	\$ 430	Repainting classrooms
Parsonage #1	\$ 7,510	Replace Air Conditioner unit
Parsonage #2	\$ 3,120	New Carpet, Repairs, New Basement Steps
Basement waterproofing	\$ 7,400	Waterproofing to prevent youth area flooding
New Church Electronic Sign	(covered in insurance claim)	Previous sign was damaged

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Project Name	Amount Needed	Explanation
Parsonage #1	\$ 60,000	Repairs and Updates (Very little has been done in the past 20 years)
Parsonage #2	\$ 2,000	Repair Front Porch