EUMC Leadership Meeting Minutes
Date: 10/27/2026: 5:30 PM @Church

Attending

- Pastor Brooke
- Julie Newell (Chair)
- Kaitlin Holm (Communications)
- Kurt Jewell (Finance)
- Gabe Wiebenga (Finance)
- Bill Lester (SPRC)
- Phil Pulitzer (SPRC)
- Lynn Hughes (Trustees)
- Jesse Nelson (Trustees)
- Beth Firkins (Ministries)
- Jennifer Brady-Johnson (Ministries)

100% attendance

Leadership Meeting Minutes

Pastoral Update

- **Strategic planning:** Brooke has met with two potential facilitators for the strategic planning process planned for the first quarter of 2027. Beth, Kurt, and Gabe will work as a small group to help define the focus and expected outcome before we move forward.
- **Youth ministry:** The combined middle and high school group includes 28 youth. Students split into middle and high school groups after games. The teaching team is adjusting to the needs of the larger group.
- **Ministry moments:** The team discussed ideas for ministry moments and which topics are the best fit.
- **Church cluster meeting:** The meeting is November 7. Bill Lester will represent EUMC; others are welcome to attend.

Communications

- Church Center has been well received. Congregation-facing features will continue to be introduced gradually.
- Member data cleanup will include reviewing and updating membership categories.
- Donation history has been moved to Church Center. Kaitlin and Bev are working on pledge recording and plans for year-end giving statements.
- **Special offerings:** Kaitlin asked that she and Bev be notified when special offerings are planned so they can set up Vanco to direct donations to the appropriate fund in Church Center, reducing manual updates.

Finance

- The 2026 budget is tracking to plan, with a balanced budget expected at year-end.
- Kurt shared a quarterly financial summary developed to improve financial transparency. The plan is to offer quarterly informational meetings after Sunday worship.
- The emergency fund holds approximately $185,000. The team noted that cash reserves are sufficient and may discuss the appropriate reserve level at a future meeting.
- **Follow-up:** Kurt and Julie will confirm when the mortgage requires refinancing.
- So-Hi has returned a check to repay the short-term bridge loan.
- The finance team has been working with Bev to clarify processes, including establishing a more regular meeting schedule.

Stewardship

- Giving for 2026 remains on track with projections of approximately $570,000.
- The stewardship worship series for the 2027 Operating Campaign concluded with a well-attended Celebration Sunday. Responses will continue to arrive over the next month, and reminders will be shared with the congregation.
- A website issue has affected the online Estimate of Giving form.
- Returned estimates will be entered into Church Center, with email confirmations sent through the system.

Pastoral Compensation

- **Motion:** Kurt moved to approve the pastoral compensation resolution for presentation at the church cluster meeting. Jesse seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ministries

- Environmental and Social Justice ministries are working through a leadership transition.
- Jennifer shared a Google document to collect quarterly updates and feedback from ministry leaders.
- Sunday School is going well. The lead teacher rotation is working well, and the separate younger and older classrooms have supported engagement.

Trustees

- **Heating:** Issues with heat on the west side of the church are being addressed.
- **Flat roof:** Repairs were completed over the porch area.
- **Shingled roof:** A preliminary quote with a base price $68,000 provides an indication of replacement costs, subject to the quote's assumptions. The team's consensus remains that the roof may have another one to three years of use.

- **Elevator:** A quote of approximately $120,000 requires further review. Trustees will continue investigating and plan to reconnect with ICA about potential financial support.
- **Snow removal:** Green Blade will provide plowing services at a slightly higher cost. Twelve plows have been prepaid.

Leadership Recruiting

- Recruiting needs for next year include SPRC, ministry leadership, and confirming who will chair.

Upcoming Meetings

The following meetings have been added to the Leadership group in Church Center:

- **December 8 at 5:30 p.m.**
- **January - look for a date to be added in our Church Center group**

Submitted via email by Kaitlin Holm on Thursday October 29 and approved.