

EUMC Leadership Meeting Minutes

Date: 7/20/2026: 5:30 PM @Church

Attending

- Pastor Terry Benedett-Farmer
- Julie Newell (chair)
- Kaitlin Holm (communications)
- Kurt Jewell (Finance)
- Gabe Wiebenga (Finance)
- Beth Firkins (Ministries)
- Bill Lester (SPRC)
- Jesse Nelson (Trustees)
- Lynn Hughes (Trustees)
- Jennifer Brady-Johnson (Ministries)

Not Present: Phil Pulitzer (SPRC)

Safety

Following review by Leadership the Safety Committee has finalized and published updated weather guidelines to help ensure consistent decision-making during severe weather events.

Finance

Operating Budget: We continue to be in a healthy financial position. Giving remains ahead of budget and ahead of this point last year, while expenses continue to track closely with the approved budget. Recent technology upgrades and the transition to a new technology vendor created a small increase in expenses but remain within our overall budget expectations.

Foundational Generosity Campaign: The parking lot project was completed on budget. The church's portion (approximately \$100,000) was fully funded through cash on hand from the Foundational Generosity Campaign. Looking ahead, discussed the remaining campaign priorities, including additional debt reduction and starting to evaluate options for future roof replacement.

Additional discussion regarding the Legacy Fund is also planned.

Trustees

The parking lot resurfacing project is complete, and the results have been well received by the congregation. Final striping work will be completed in the coming days, and accessible parking signage is being updated to match the new layout. The city will also repair curb damage that occurred during water main repairs.

Additional facility updates include:

- New staff computers have been purchased.
- Landscaping improvements have been completed, including repainting the church's rainbow doors.
- Electrical panel improvements are underway to ensure continued safety and code compliance.
- Work is in progress to extend Wi-Fi coverage towards the park side of the building.
- Trustees continue to explore updated exterior signage for both the front and side of the church.
- An elevator switch was recently repaired. While the elevator will eventually require replacement, it is expected to continue serving the church for several more years as planning continues.
- Brick maintenance remains an item Trustees are monitoring.
- Trustees will begin discussing future roof replacement options and obtaining updated estimates. Current belief is that the roof can hold up a few more years with occasional minor repair.

Ministries

Jennifer continues visiting many of our ministry partners and recently met with leaders at ICA, where she received encouraging feedback about the strength of our partnership. Plans are also underway for attending at Simpson Housing.

Children's and Youth Ministries

Following a June Parent Advisory meeting, planning continues for an exciting fall. Beginning this fall, Sunday School will expand into two age-based classrooms to better serve our growing children's ministry. Beth, Kaitlin, and Kallie are working together on volunteer recruitment, communications, and implementation plans.

Planning is also well underway for Fall Kick-Off Sunday, including activities, food, and volunteer recruitment.

Communications

With Microsoft Publisher being retired, work continues to transition our communication tools and processes. Initial awareness of this transition has already been shared through *Shorelines*, and additional updates will be provided as plans develop.

Pastoral Update

Pastor Terry shared that the congregation and staff continue to respond positively during Pastor Brooke's sabbatical. Worship has gone smoothly throughout the summer, and Brooke's thoughtful planning with church leadership before her leave has helped provide a seamless transition. Summer worship attendance has also remained strong.

Leadership also began discussing ways to support Pastor Brooke during her first several weeks back, recognizing that there will naturally be a transition period as she returns. Her first Sunday back will coincide with our Fall Kick-Off Sunday.

Planning Center Transition

Leadership continues planning for the transition from Servant Keeper to Planning Center. Discussion focused on the implementation timeline and the work required to migrate membership and financial information to the new system.

Upcoming Meetings:

- **August TBD**
- **September 28: 5:30 (Welcome Back Brooke)**
- **October 27: 5:30**
- **December 8: 5:30**

Submitted for review on 7/26/2026 by Kaitlin Holm via email and approved by leadership.