

# **EUMC Leadership Team Meeting Minutes**

**September 9, 2025 @ 6:00 PM dinner/meeting @ EUMC**

## **Fundraising Update – Kaitlin Holm**

### **2025 Campaign Proposal**

- A feasibility study with small groups showed diverse opinions, but broad agreement that we should move forward with a capital campaign to address debt payments and major expenses.
- Both new and long-term members agreed these are necessary—not frivolous—investments.
- Initial commitments from top donors came in at roughly one-third of their last campaign levels, giving us confidence that a \$500K goal is very achievable. Discussion continues around whether we should stretch higher.
- Suggested framing: focus first on essential needs (resurfacing the parking lot, repairing the leaking roof), with any remaining funds directed toward debt reduction.
- About \$200K has already been pledged specifically with the intention that the church will make an effort to dig into debt reduction.
- Making a substantial dent in debt now means we won't see relief in the operating budget until 2027.
- We need clarity on the role of legacy funds.
- Plan is to hold two capital campaigns over the coming years to fully cover these priorities. Timeline and total capacity remain key questions.

### **New Asphalt Bids**

- \$83K – main upper parking lot resurfacing
- \$36K – annex parking lot resurfacing
- Consensus: complete the entire parking lot at once. This investment sends a message to the neighborhood that “we are here to stay” and refreshes the church's presence.

### **Campaign Rollout**

- Presentations will be made through 2 small groups, 3 fellowship Sundays, and a celebration event.

- Messaging should highlight:
  - Debt reduction frees up \$X annually for ministry and operations.
  - If the goal is raised to \$600K, we must plan for scenarios where pledges reach only \$525K. Consensus: complete the parking lot first, then direct remaining funds to debt reduction.
  - Revised target: \$650K campaign → \$400K for debt reduction + \$250K for building maintenance (FAQs can include piano, youth space, elevator, and stained-glass lighting).

**Action Item:** Leadership asked to respond to Kaitlin with availability for campaign sessions on **October 1st and 2nd**.

#### **Pastoral Update – Brooke**

- We are now fully staffed! Elizabeth has started and is doing well.
- Congratulations to Brooke & the church on receiving the **“Immersive Storytelling” Lily Grant**
- Sabbatical coverage: plan to have 2–3 pastors fill in, with lay-led services in between.
- Sabbatical focus: intentional investment in what renews and inspires.
- Fall programming is off to a strong start:
  - Bible study attendance was so high this week that the group had to move rooms.
  - Worship, youth, and children’s program attendance remain steady and encouraging.
- **Challenge:** evening small groups need more leaders/facilitators.

#### **Trustee Update – Jim**

- Safety issues were discussed. Jim will draft a safety plan with guidance from the conference and present it at a future meeting.
- Reviewed and approved the Greenspace Committee workbook. This project is now considered complete, and the workbook will serve as a model for future planning.

### **SPRC – *Bill/Phil***

- Elizabeth Guillaume has joined staff as Office Administrator.
- Voted to increase Blair's hours by 5hrs/week. Motion by Bill Lester to approve, seconded by Beth. **All in favor.**

### **So-Hi Community Park Update – *Sarah/Bill***

- \$50K Hennepin County Grant application will be submitted in September.
- Leadership reviewed landscape architect sketches and affirmed commitment to continue fundraising toward project goals.

### **Ministries Update – *Beth/Jennifer***

- **Gratitude Day:** Social Justice Team brainstorming ways to support.
- Social Justice Team (newly formed) is a merger of the Climate Justice and Racial Justice groups.
- Coldwater Springs event was cancelled.
- Book Club is being planned in connection with Elen's second visit.

### **Financial Update - *Gabe***

- Revenue is currently lower than expected, though still within projected averages.
- Spending is under budget in several areas, but this is expected to change toward year-end.
- Music ministry budget approved at \$10K over prior year's budget.

**Meeting adjourned at 9pm**

**Submitted by Sarah Nelson**