

EUMC Leadership Meeting Minutes

Date: 4/22/25 | **Time:** 6:30 PM

Attendees: Jim Stromberg, Julie Newell, Brooke Steiner, Bill Lester, Beth Firkins, Lynn Hughs, Gabe Wiebenga, Kurt Jewel, Jennifer Brady Johnson

Financial Discussion

QuickBooks Access: New finance members need QuickBooks credentials and signing authority at Bridgewater.

Outstanding Funds: Discuss repayment to the General Council. Determine appropriate contacts.

Reports: Clarify which financial reports Kurt and Gabe need to provide.

Apportionment Funds:

- Decision needed on use of withheld funds (\$60K from 2019–2024).
- Options discussed: donation of 5–10%, external mission-focused giving.
- Leadership to email suggestions/comments by Friday.

Debt Communication:

- Plan communication about loan restructuring.
- Stewardship campaign will be addressed in the fall—avoid double "asks" to the congregation.

Trustees Updates (Jim/Trustees)

Greenspace Plan:

- Presented by Jeffrey Johnson (10 priorities listed, no cost/maintenance details).
- Form a small group to review and recommend next steps.
- Consider annual review vs. formal adoption.

Meditation Garden:

- Request for \$1,500–\$2,200 annual maintenance.
- Concerns raised; Jim and Lynn will review the budget and recommend options.

- Group discussed how well used and valued the meditation garden is. Several people shared communication they'd had with community members about how much they enjoyed the space. The team felt strongly about keeping it maintained but are naturally concerned about an ongoing expense.

Parking Lot:

- Two quotes received (minor repairs vs. full resurfacing).
- Decision: prioritize Parking Lot OR Roof based on roof's life expectancy (estimate 3–5 more years with maintenance).
- Seeking second opinion on roof condition.

SPRC Update (Bill Lester)

New Administrative Hire:

- Donna (pending background check) to start Monday.
- Lynn and Jennifer assist with training.

Ministries Update (Jennifer/Beth)

Racial Justice Initiative:

- Tree planting ceremony and service planning underway.
- Ongoing work: send out Google survey, review responses, and schedule next quarterly update.

SO-Hi Community Park Update (Sarah)

Arbor Day Planting Event:

- Scheduled for Saturday, May 17th, 10:00 AM–Noon.
- Llama visit scheduled for July 31st.

Landscape Architect Meeting:

- Sarah and Jesse will meet with the firm in early May to discuss priorities:
 - Shade Structure
 - Tree Planting
 - Playground Integration
 - Native Landscaping
- Will also ask for recommendations on an interactive, low-maintenance option for the Meditation Garden.

Water Source:

- Proposal received for \$2,300 to tie into existing water lines to provide closer water access for tree and landscaping care.
- No concerns raised about the park funding the new spigot near the annex.

Fundraising (Bill):

- Mt. Calvary Coffee House event on Friday, 4/25.

Other Updates (Brooke)

- Park & Lenten Dinners:
 - Successful turnout for Lenten dinners and Easter services (even attendance across services).
- Annual Conference Representation:
 - Thank you to Peter Cleavland and Jeffrey Johnson for serving as lay leaders.
- Contemplative Prayer Group:
 - Nearing conclusion; potential continuation through grant funding.
- Confirmation:
 - 12 students to be confirmed May 18th; possible separate baptism service for up to 6 students.
- Guest Preachers:
 - Scheduling underway.

Security Cameras (Kurt/Trustees):

- Installed a new 3TB drive.

Next Meeting: June 8, 2025 AFTER CHURCH SERVICE