

EUMC Leadership Meeting Minutes

Date: 9/28/2026: 5:30 PM @Church

Attending

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

Not Present: Phil Pulitzer (SPRC); Jesse Nelson (Trustees)

Pastoral Updates

- **Strategic planning:** Strategic planning is being considered for 2027 (likely Feb). The last strategic planning cycle, completed in 2018, established priorities that included the upper-level remodel. Throughout the meeting, leaders noted how a new planning cycle could guide decisions over the next year and beyond.
- **Post-sabbatical event:** An event is being planned to share reflections following Pastor Brooke's sabbatical. Timing and details are still being developed.
- **Cluster Church Conferences:** Conferences will take place November 7. EUMC needs three representatives to attend.
- **Printed communications:** With Microsoft Publisher being retired, Canva is being considered as an interim tool for creating the bulletin. Longer-term plans for printed communications will be evaluated alongside the transition to Church Center.
- **Church Center:** Leaders discussed continued rollout of Church Center and ways to help staff and ministry leaders use Planning Center more effectively. Different capabilities are being piloted to build familiarity and inform next steps. May consider enlisting some outside consulting support.
- **Christmas Eve offering:** The offering will support Ukraine light kits.

Ministry Teams

- **Environmental and Social Justice:** The team is in the midst of a leadership transition as Kay and Marcia step back.
- **Welcome Back Sunday:** The event was successful, with strong attendance to welcome Pastor Brooke back. Leaders thanked Beth for coordinating the event and recruiting

volunteers. Information tables provided a valuable overview of church ministries, although engagement varied. Providing materials people can take home may help supplement future sign-up opportunities.

- **Ministry moments:** Leaders brainstormed ways to recruit participants and share stories of ministry impact. Youth ministries and Simpson were suggested as possible future highlights.
- **Sunday School:** The transition to two classrooms is going well.

Finance and Stewardship

- **Financial reporting:** Kurt and Gabe are working with Bev to improve reporting and transparency. Members seeking more detailed financial information can connect directly with Kurt and Gabe.
- **Financial position:** EUMC's financial position remains strong, including operating funds and emergency reserves.
- **Parking lot:** Spending on the parking lot project was confirmed at approximately \$100,000.
- **2026 operating giving:** Giving remains on track to finish close to the forecast of \$570,000.
- **Foundational Generosity:** Giving to date is just under \$300,000, with approximately \$300,000 remaining in commitments. For cash-flow planning, current estimates are approximately \$200,000 in 2027 and \$100,000 in 2028.

So-Hi Community Park

The sport court is complete and is being used by the community.

The city is ready to submit a \$104,000 grant to the county. Paid invoices are required before the grant funds can be released. So-Hi needs an \$80,000 short-term bridge loan to pay the outstanding invoices while awaiting the grant funds.

Leadership approved providing the short-term bridge loan from EUMC funds, with repayment expected within a matter of weeks. A simple agreement or promissory note will be drafted to document the arrangement.

Trustees

- **Snow removal:** Work is underway on a snow-removal contract.
- **Electrical safety:** Only Trustees are authorized to handle the fuses. Leaders thanked John for raising this important safety reminder. It is very important that no one else touch the fuses under and circumstances.

- **Insurance:** Jim Stromberg's insurance review was shared with the Leadership Team. Insurance costs increased by approximately \$2,000; details about the factors behind the increase are available.
- **Sanctuary roof:** Trustees are working to extend the life of the shingles on the peaked portion of the sanctuary roof by approximately two years, ideally through the end of the capital campaign. A leak on the flat portion will be addressed this fall. Flat-roof maintenance will require continued monitoring.
- **Solar panels:** The solar panels are generating savings, although it is hard to put a number to it.
- **Elevator:** The elevator stopped working during ICA's use of the building this week. Leaders will revisit discussions with ICA about contributing toward elevator costs of replacement after confirming the estimate. Leaders also noted the need to discourage children from playing in the elevator.
- **Planting:** Planting coordinated with the playground project is planned for Saturday morning.

Follow-Up Items

- Identify potential Leadership Team members for 2027, keeping participation in strategic planning in mind.
- Draft an agreement or promissory note for the approved So-Hi bridge loan.
- Confirm the elevator estimate and revisit the cost-sharing discussion with ICA.
- Arrange for three EUMC representatives to attend the November 7 Cluster Church Conferences.

Upcoming Meetings

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

- **October 27 at 5:30 p.m.**
- **December 8 at 5:30 p.m.**