

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SAN DIEGO
Church Council Agenda
Saturday September 20, 2025
8:30 –10:30 am Linder Lounge and Zoom

Our Mission: To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our Vision: Growing in Grace, Reaching Out with Love

Church Council Call to Order Erik Wilde

Devotional & Opening Prayer Rev. Trudy Robinson

Approval of Minutes March Church Council Meeting Erik Wilde

Updates

Sankofa Pilgrimage Rev. Brittany J. Hanlin
Sunday School Shift..... Rev. Brittany J. Hanlin
Small Group Ministries Rev. Dr. Hannah Ka
Communications Meghan Claussen
Property Transition Team Janice Roudebush

New Business

Stewardship: Our Money Story Jason Tucker

Information Items:

All Church Gathering on Sankofa Pilgrimages Sunday, September 20, 12PM
Showers of Blessings Breakfast..... Saturday, October 11, 7:30 – 9:30AM
Evensong Remembrance Service.....Saturday, November 1, 6PM
Interfaith Thanksgiving Service..... Sunday, November 16, 4-7PM
Page Turners Fall Book Study.....September to December
TapestrySundays at 11AM, Trotter Chapel
In-Person Convergence Discussion Group.....Sundays at 12PM, Trotter Chapel

Adjournment Erik Wilde

Next Church Council meeting: December 13, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.

Reminders of the Rules for Engagement

- Guests are always welcome.
- Comments will be limited to a maximum of 3 minutes per speaker.
- Robert's Rules of order will be followed on all motions.
- Official voters are only Church Council members.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SAN DIEGO

Church Council Meeting

Saturday March 1, 2025

8:30 –10:30 a.m. Linder Lounge & Zoom

Our Mission: To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our Vision: Growing in Grace, Reaching Out with Love

Church Council Members Present:

Erik Wilde (Chair), Khaled Alsabbagh, Carol Blessing, Tobias Crislip, Sharmon Davis, Dana Hook, Nick Hubsmith, Philip Jeter, David Kay, Rebecca Luers, Steve Mason, Pam McMaster, Lisa Meuser, Nan Myers, Belen Poltorak, Janice Roudebush, Phyllis Sarkaria, Kent Schrock, Laurie St Gean, Marilyn Stone, Laurie Tucker, Todd Vollstedt, Barbara Weicksel, and Michael Zimbric.

Pastors:

Rev. Trudy Robinson, Rev. Brittany J Hanlin, and Rev. Dr. Hannah Ka

Staff:

Sheilah Cameron, Meghan Claussen, Demmie Divine, Linda Hawk, Brian Woods-Lustig, and Jason Tucker

In person guests:

Scott Caprio, Rick Cook, Tina Fares, Ray Henderson, Christine Hoffman, Sharon Jeter, Bruce Johnson, Cheryl Johnson, Dawn Martin, Joyce Sernaker, AJ Genovese and Tom Trujillo

Online guests:

Pat Clowney, Bruce Coons, Allie DeNatale, Jane Ferris, Beryl Flom, Kathy Grove, Myra Hermann, Mike James, Amy Kerrigan, Carole Porter, Dave Schwab, Jean Service

Church Council Call to Order by Erik Wilde at 8:30 a.m.

Devotional & Opening Prayer by Rev. Trudy Robinson

Approval of December 14, 2025 Meeting Minutes:

Erik Wilde called for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2025 meeting. Motion made, seconded and approved by majority vote.

Updates:

Dream School of the Arts:

Brian Woods-Lustig, Director of Choral Activities, provided an update on the after-school program at the Dream School. The programs being offered are music, fitness, art, math and literacy in addition to

daily reading requirements and academic support. The school recently received an in-kind donation of \$5,000 for art supplies and instructor stipends. Kenton Reeves Hundley is currently training for the LA Marathon and has surpassed his fundraising goal, and several grant applications are in the works.

Sankofa Pilgrimage:

Rev. Brittany Hanlin announced the upcoming pilgrimage to the Midwest with stops at historic sites in Springfield and Chicago, Illinois. The deadline for registration is Monday, March 3rd.

Small Group Ministries:

Rev. Hannah Ka reported on the growth and activities of the various small groups within the church. Two new groups were formed by Carol Blessing and Kent Schrock and another by Tom Trujillo. The church has also started a Parents' Forum and Young Adult Book Study group.

Communications:

Meghan Claussen, Director of Communications, highlighted the church's digital communications efforts, including the Perspectives podcast, which had 16,000 cumulative views in 2024. The church has also launched a Patreon account and an online shop for merchandise. Meghan expressed interest in forming a Realm squad and video/picture team to enhance our online engagement.

New Business:

Property Transition Task Force Motion:

Lisa Meuser, Chair of the Property Transition Task Force, shared the results of the 2023 re-wilding process and recommended that the Ocean Beach sanctuary complex and cottage parcels be sold to an affordable housing developer. The task force is also exploring the feasibility of a ground lease for the Mission Valley East Property for affordable housing. At a meeting with the District Superintendent and Assistant to the Bishop, it was stated that the California Pacific Conference, for which we are a member, wants to maintain a physical ministry presence in Ocean Beach. Following this meeting, the task force met and agreed that the best course of action was to pursue a transfer of the Ocean Beach properties to the California Pacific Conference. This would allow us to focus our efforts on bringing affordable housing to Mission Valley. This process will involve the California Pacific Conference leadership and the district's buildings and locations committee.

A motion to transfer ownership of the Ocean Beach sanctuary complex and cottage parcels to the California Pacific Conference was made, seconded and approved by majority vote.

Several attendees asked questions about the Mission Valley East Property, which is still in its exploratory phase.

Information Items:

Erik noted there are several events coming up in March and April that are notated on the agenda.

Church Council Meeting Dates for 2025:

The meeting dates for CY 2025: June 21, September 20, and December 13.

Erik Wilde adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Demmie Divine
Director of Member Care Services

Children & Youth Sunday Sessions 2025-26

Session 1: August 17 to September 7, 2025 (no Sunday School)

10:00-10:45am Primary Choir and Secondary Voices MUSIC TEAM

11:00-11:45am Youth Chimes MUSIC TEAM

Session 2: September 14 to November 9, 2025

9:15-10:00am Sunday School

10:00-10:45am Primary Choir and Secondary Voices MUSIC TEAM

11:00-11:45am Youth Chimes MUSIC TEAM

Session 3: November 16 to December 24, 2025

9:15-10:00am Rehearsal for Christmas Pageant MUSIC TEAM

10:00-10:45am Rehearsal for Christmas Pageant MUSIC TEAM

11:00-11:45 Rehearsal for Christmas Pageant MUSIC TEAM

No programming: December 28, 2025 to January 4, 2026

Winter Mini-Session: January 11 to January 25, 2025

9:15am-10:00am Sunday School - Theme **Mental Health** (NLCC)

10:00-10:45am Primary Choir and Secondary Voices MUSIC TEAM

11:00-11:45am Youth Chimes MUSIC TEAM

Session 4: February 1 to March 22, 2025

9:15-10:00am Rehearsal for Spring Musical MUSIC TEAM

10:00-10:45am Rehearsal for Spring Musical MUSIC TEAM

11:00-11:45 Rehearsal for Spring Musical MUSIC TEAM

No programming: March 29 to April 5, 2026

Session 5: April 12 to May 10, 2026

9:15-10:00am Sunday School - Theme **STEAM TOPICS** (Dream School)

10:00-10:45am Primary Choir and Secondary Voices MUSIC TEAM

11:00-11:45am Youth Chimes MUSIC TEAM

No Programming: May 17, 2025 to July 5, 2026

VBS Summer Session: July 12 to July 26, 2026

9:15am to 12:15pm VBS Programming **TBD**

No programming: August 2 to August 9, 2026

Begin 2026-27 Session 1: August 16, 2026

First Church SD

Awareness & Engagement

AUGUST 2025



 **FIRST CHURCH**
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of SAN DIEGO
• Radical Grace, Extravagant Love & Divine Justice for All



Awareness & Engagement Dashboard (August)

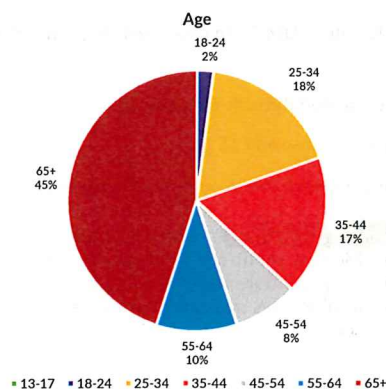
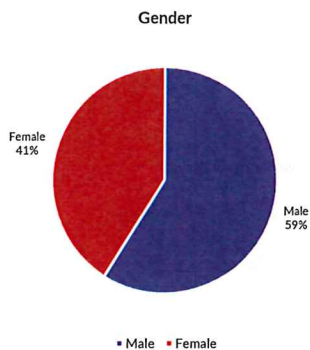
AWARENESS				ENGAGEMENT			
	1 Month	3 Month	12 Month		1 Month	3 Month	12 Month
Organic Search: Impressions	44.3K (↓)	131.5K (↓)	454.4K (↑)	Organic Search: Clicks	1.3K (↓)	4K (↓)	18.1K (↑)
Organic Search: 1 st Page Terms	177 (=)	229 (↓)	281 (↓)	Paid Search: Clicks	71 (↑)	189 (↓)	1K (↓)
Paid Search: Impressions	715 (↑)	1.3K (↑)	6.4K (↓)	Web: User Engagements	5.8K (↓)	18.4K (↓)	87.9K (↓)
Web: New Visitors	3K (↑)	8.5K (↓)	36.6K (↓)	Social: New Followers	283 (↓)	731 (↑)	1.7K (↑)
Web: Visits/Sessions	5.3K (↓)	15.5K (↓)	67.1K (↓)	Social: Post Engagement	1.2K (↓)	4.2K (↑)	16.5K (↑)
Social: Reach	32.6K (↓)	150.9K (↑)	528K (↑)	YouTube: New Subscribers	40 (↑)	122 (↓)	869 (↑)
Social: Profile Visits	1.6K (↑)	4.8K (↓)	21.9K (↓)	YouTube: All Video Views	21K (↓)	72K (↑)	347.4K (↑)
YouTube: Impressions	333.5K (↑)	913.1K (↑)	5.7M (↑)	YouTube: All Livestream Views	2.7K (↑)	8.2K (↓)	42K (↓)
CURRENT SUBSCRIBERS (SEPT 1)				Podcast: All Views (YouTube, Apple Podcast, and Spotify)	1.1K (↑)	2.4K (↑)	7.1K (N/A)
Facebook: 3.6K Instagram: 627 YouTube: 3.5K							

Arrows indicate growth or decrease when compared to previous period.
For example, 1 month is August vs July 2025.

Audience (August)



Age & Gender from Facebook, Instagram, YouTube; Location from Facebook, Instagram, Google Analytics (website)



Cities	Views
San Diego	2,550
Los Angeles	903
Chula Vista	141
El Cajon	98
Santee	76
La Mesa	71
Moreno Valley	63
Anaheim	58
San Jose	55
Escondido	43
Phoenix	42
Long Beach	29
Bakersfield	25
Sacramento	23

Represents: Facebook/Instagram subscribers,
YouTube video views, website visitors

Excludes cities outside of western U.S.



Additional Stats & Recent Activities

Perspectives Pastors Podcast

- 81 episodes produced January 2024 – August 2025
- 10,680 views across YouTube, Spotify, and Apple Podcast
- Highlighted in May by Cal-Pac Conference and Resource UMC – in email, website, and social media!

Patreon

- Found at: <https://www.patreon.com/fumcsd> & promoted through the podcast
- Launched on Nov. 22; currently have 28 members – 13 free and 15 paid
- Membership levels: *Paid membership is primarily for those not participating in our church outside of Perspectives & those who want to contribute directly to our digital efforts*

Free (\$0/month):

- Interact with others through chat feature that allows them to discuss the episodes

Gold (\$10/month): Free benefits, plus:

- Member shout-out on future episode
- Suggest future topics & questions
- Inspiration & questions from Tapestry services
- Recorded Q&A sessions with the pastors
- Live Q&A sessions
- Behind the scenes content
- Topic sneak peeks

Social Media & YouTube

- Gained 3,635 new Facebook followers, 293 new Instagram followers, and 869 new YouTube subscribers over the last 12 months
- All three platforms are both organically (no advertising spend) showing our videos/reels to more individuals thanks to high engagement rate.



Our Money Story, Using Stakeholder and Staff Input:

On August 17th, we invited a group of our church stakeholders to join us for a luncheon where we worked to discuss and define Our Money Story as a church congregation. Invitations were sent to all governance committee members, as well as additional donors and volunteers. Some folks had only been with the church for a few years, while others had been around for generations, and everyone's love for our church and deep commitment to its mission resonated in our conversations, our laughter, and our responses. We centered our work around the elements of a story—Setting, Characters, Plot, Conflict, and Tone. The responses below have been synthesized from the work of our 25 stakeholders who joined us, and some additional feedback from our staff directors, who enjoyed a modified version of the workshop earlier that week.

Setting

Our community exists in a diverse and regional economic setting that spans from upper-middle class and affluent families with generational wealth to younger, debt-burdened members who may be “house rich but cash poor.” The church is not a neighborhood church, and our members come from all over an increasingly gentrifying, progressive, and costly San Diego County, amplifying the complexity of stewardship and outreach.

Characters

Leading characters include long-time families, major donors like John Hermann and Bob & Marion Wilson, the Long family, unexpected angels like Wayne Lee Brown, and so many others who contributed time, talent, and treasure to our work. Clergy and staff leaders—past and present—continue to shape practices of generosity, alongside deep family traditions and scriptural examples like Ruth and the Widow's Mite. Together with faithful groups like the Covenant Circle, the Finance Committee, the First UMC Foundation, and the Board of Trustees, these leaders embody both institutional legacy and lived traditions of generosity.

Plot

Major turning points in our story include relocating to Mission Valley, constructing and expanding facilities, becoming a Reconciling Church, and the Ocean Beach expansion and closure. The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated digital ministry, disrupted attendance, and changed giving patterns. Inflation, housing costs, and ongoing cultural shifts toward secularization continue to challenge participation and financial stability. At the same time, efforts in racial justice, Re-Wilding, and new initiatives like Dream School of the Arts mark hopeful but also disruptive chapters in the story.

Conflict

Tensions often arise around perceived wealth versus actual need—many might assume “the church is rich” and withhold gifts, while leaders wrestle with balancing reserves, buildings, and ministries. Membership decline, aging demographics, and resistance to change strain resources, as have occasional conflicts around theological and social justice issues. Stakeholders named fears of scarcity, generational shifts in giving, and mistrust or lack of transparency as barriers to deeper generosity.

Tone

Overall, our tone reflects a community that loves its church deeply but remains conflicted about money's

role in sustaining and expanding its mission. Stakeholders express confidence that God will provide, joy in giving, and pride in generosity. Yet we acknowledge feelings from the past of suspicion, frustration, and nostalgia for a time of greater perceived abundance. Our history of affluence sometimes obscures our real needs, and so we seek to move beyond nostalgia and fear of change toward faithful, transparent stewardship that empowers justice and mission.

The Re-Wilding Effect:

The church's year-long period of learning and discernment invited deep reflection on how the church is using its resources and the impact of those expenditures. We wrestled with the changing culture that produces skepticism and suspicion in others and the need to be clear about the gospel message and creative in the ways we share that message. We looked deeply into the expenses and found that the church's mission is threatened with neglect due to the demands of upkeep for our property and buildings. The leadership involved in the year of discernment made some bold recommendations which were adopted by the Church Council. The impact is striking and affirms of the long-lived courage of First Church and the faithfulness of its leaders.

God's Money Story:

Our community believes God's money story teaches that money is not to be hoarded but shared freely for the care of others. Scripture shows that generosity, not the size of the gift, is what matters—whether in the widow's mite or the loaves and fishes, God provides abundantly when we give faithfully. At its heart, God's Money Story calls the community to trust in God's provision, live simply, and give generously for the good of all.

Theme Statements:

As a community, we believe money is a gift and resource entrusted to us by God. It enables ministry, sustains our church, and supports those in need, yet we also recognize the tension it carries—between abundance and scarcity, freedom and burden.

As a community, we use money to sustain our ministries and facilities, while trying to balance tradition with innovation, buildings with people, and stability with the risks of Re-Wilding in an evolving digital culture.

As a community, we give money joyfully and generously to support God's mission, strengthen our congregation, and invest in causes aligned with our faith and values. We acknowledge that motivations are changing—some give to preserve legacy and infrastructure, while others give to advance justice, inclusion, and future-oriented ministry.

Last year's stewardship campaign focused on Our Money Story from an individual and family perspective. This year, we will focus on Our Money Story as a church organization and congregation. Re-Wilding has been a big turning point, and all are invited to join in the next chapters of our story. We can't write it without each and every one of you!

**Property Transition Team
Report to Church Council
September 20, 2025**

Thank you to everyone who attended our listening sessions during the summer. We appreciate your feedback, insights and perspectives as we explore affordable housing opportunities.

We received responses related to desired neighbors, relationships, project services, amenities, location, design and sustainable features. This information will be shared with LeSar Development Consultants, who worked with us on the feasibility study for the properties. Our goal is to have a Request for Proposals (RFP) ready to be sent to potential developers by the end of the calendar year.

The team, in consultation with LeSar Development Consultants, will review, score and evaluate proposals submitted in response to our RFP in FY 2026.

Please visit the Affordable Housing website at:

www.fumcsd.org/our-church/about-us/affordable-housing-initiative

The page has resources, FAQs and a link if you have further feedback or questions to share with the team. We will keep our congregation informed as we continue this journey.

We are in the process of negotiating the transfer of the Ocean Beach properties to the South District Union of the California Pacific Annual Conference. The District Union did vote to accept the properties “as is” with the current tenants and facility users. This will relieve First UMC San Diego of all financial, maintenance, and operational responsibilities associated with the properties once the grant deed is recorded with the County of San Diego.

We anticipate a Charge Conference will be held shortly, to vote on authorizing the Board of Trustees, via a resolution, to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between First UMC San Diego and the South District Union to transfer ownership of the Ocean Beach properties.

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Report to Church Council
September 20, 2025

We are almost at the end of Quarter 3—2025 is flying by quickly! Here is where we are with our funds as of August 31st.

Operating Fund:

For total revenues that include pledges, special offerings, and facility use income along with other sources, we are at 98% of the budget as of August 31st. Record of Giving is lagging budget projections and our Easter offering came in under budget. We are also running behind budget with facility usage revenues and are looking forward to a busy Quarter 4 with events.

For expenses, our electricity bills do not reflect 100% performance of our solar panel system. The Board of Trustees has been closely monitoring our system's performance compared to what was guaranteed and communicating our concerns and expectations with Sunistics Group, Inc. Total expenses are 100% of the budget as of August 31st.

The operating fund gap between Year-to-Date budget compared to actuals is \$47,226. This is due to being short of \$38,175 in revenues and over on expenses by \$9,051. We have built in a contingency fund of \$28,000 to help cover any potential deficit at year end.

Once we have our September financials, the finance team will determine what budget adjustments need to be made as we head into Quarter 4 of the fiscal year.

Children's Growing Center:

Total revenues as of August 31st were 100% of the budget with a cumulative shortfall of \$4,014. Total expenses are over budget by 3% due to increased costs associated with outsourced staffing (substitute teachers) and credit card fees.

The Children's Growing Center is in its fall season and is planning for the remainder of the year. We are not offering Kindergarten due to low enrollment and directing resources toward the lower age groups where there is demand for childcare.

New Life Counseling Center:

The New Life Counseling Center is exceeding revenue projections by 17% and has acquired two additional office spaces on the 3rd floor of the United Methodist Center that were unoccupied to expand our capacity to offer services

The Center is projected to end the year with a positive balance, and we are grateful to the Director, Sheilah Cameron, for her leadership of this vital ministry in our church.

East Property Fund:

The East Property Fund is 82% of the budget as of August 31st due to delinquent lease payments from Here Comes the Bride. The Finance Committee is supportive of the Business Manager to consult with an attorney on options for eviction since they continue to struggle making rent on time.

Waldorf School of San Diego signed a lease with another location; our Board of Trustees has approved the signing of an Exclusive Listing Agreement with Kidder Mathews to secure a tenant for the United Methodist Center. We look forward to being able to generate lease revenue while we explore affordable housing options.

Expenses are 100% of the budget due to savings in utilities and overall building and custodial costs since occupancy is primarily on the 3rd floor of the UMC and usage for the 1st floor for Sunday School and various external group meetings during the week.

Ocean Beach Property Fund:

Ocean Beach revenues are at 88% of the budget and expenses are at 82% with savings in utilities and building and equipment maintenance.

The Property Transition Team, in collaboration with the Board of Trustees, is working with the District Superintendent on the transfer of the Ocean Beach properties to the South District Union of the California Pacific Conference.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis Sarkaria and Nan Myers
Co-Chairs

**Board of Trustees
Report to Church Council
September 20, 2025**

Since our last report to the Church Council on March 1, 2025, much work has been completed around our church. The painting of both the Linder complex as well as the exterior of the Sanctuary have been completed. Railings on both sides of the Sanctuary that lead up to the Nave have been completed so that we are now compliant with ADA standards, which stipulates the requirement of 2 railings on each set of steps. A new HVAC system has been installed in the Music Center and Trotter Chapel.

After interviewing several landscape companies, it was recommended by Chris Cain and Nick Hubsmith that we continue with our current contractor, Landcare Logic. We are now doing closer monitoring of their work which includes regular walkthroughs of our campus to ensure proper care of landscaping and maintenance of the irrigation system. We have contracted with them for the repairs of some of our irrigation systems as well as replanting areas where we have lost plants.

The Board approved a bid by Landcare Logic of \$12,300 for the clearing of brush on the hillside behind the church to reduce the fire hazard created by the overgrowth of vegetation. Landcare Logic has trimmed bushes back, removed weeds and cut our dead shrubs to about 25 feet from the bottom to the top of our property. Properties on both sides of us have cleared brush off the hillside and this is our responsibility to do so to be good neighbors to those who live above us.

The Board received a detailed Memorial Garden Inventory that was compiled by Nick Hubsmith and Mel West that included capacities, prices, incomes and expenditures. It is estimated that our current inventory will carry us into 2027. The Board has also approved Memorial Garden Niches for qualified employees as an employee benefit. The niches will be a benefit to both full and part-time employees along with a significant other after 5 years of employment with the church.

Our Director of Music Ministries and Organist, Sarah Amos, has found that not all the bells in the Bell Tower are functioning as some bells peal while others remain silent. We contacted a contractor that installed the bells and approved a bid of \$3,017 to conduct a full survey of the 15 chimes as well as lubrication of the bells. It was determined that more work needs to be done on the bells as well as on the tower itself. Since neither of these are on the priority list for this year, we will be deferring this to next year's priority list and budget.

Kevin Miller, Director of AV Media and Technology, shared with the Board the challenges associated with the current Chancel lighting system. After much research he recommended that we invest in a DMX system that would replace our current outdated system. The Board approved a bid from DCI Theatrical Lighting for \$59,948 to include lights, installation, labor, lifts and scaffolding. The Board also approved a bid from Go Electric for \$31,763 for the electrical work associated with the Chancel lighting project. This work has been completed and those who attended our most recent organ concert on September 5th witnessed the beautiful result of our new lighting.

Last year, we lost a major tenant for the 2nd floor of the United Methodist Center and another prospective tenant decided not to pursue a lease with FUMCSD. This leaves us with unoccupied space and loss of income from the building. In June, the Board interviewed two companies that work with religious institutions and help to secure appropriate tenants for available space. Kidder Matthews and Duhs Commercial, Inc. each provided the Board with presentations that highlighted their expertise in working with religious institutions. The Board's consensus was to authorize a contract with Kidder Mathews. Kidder Mathews will promote our property and seek an organization that will meet our qualifications to lease the property. Currently, we still do not have a prospective tenant.

The Board continues to review the status performance of our new Solar Panel System. We want to thank both Keith Fuller and Phillip Jeter for their analyses of our solar system since it went into operation on October 10, 2024. Based on their findings, our system is not performing at the projections that were given to us by Sunistics Group, nor have we received the projected dollar savings. Adjustments have been made in the timing when we begin heating/cooling the Sanctuary to ensure we get the best rates for electrical usage, and those adjustments have resulted in savings on our electrical bill. Representatives from Sunistics have been provided with data generated by Keith Fuller and we are in communication with their representatives to address these findings. Sunistics has made some changes to the system. In July, panels were added to one of the four arrays, and all those panels were tilted and reoriented. One concern was the amount of dirt on the panels, which was largely coming from the Home Depot construction site to the west of our property. In August, we approved a bid to Spraytech to clean all the panels of dirt. We scheduled the cleaning prior to Sunistics running further tests on the system so that our panels would be clean and operating at their optimum. We will continue to monitor our system and work with Sunistics to ensure that it is working at its full potential guaranteed by Sunistics.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Roudebush, Chair

Pastor Parish Relations Committee

Report to Church Council

September 20, 2025

The PPRC met in Linder Hall on August 6. We discussed with Reverend Trudy and Reverend Brittany the way we see faith in our lives and the life of the church.

It was a very informal discussion but very heartfelt and meaningful.

Dana Hook

Chair

FIRST UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION
REPORT TO CHURCH COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

Our third quarterly meeting was held via ZOOM on August 7, 2025. The Foundation, through its two investment advisors, is managing \$11.5 million in assets. The second quarter's reports were presented and reviewed by those in attendance. Rod Evans from Kayne Anderson was unable to make the meeting but sent his reports. Blankenship and Foster were present to go over their reports and gave us an economic update. The market made gains in the second quarter, but there is still uncertainty due to tariffs and interest rates. The first two quarters of the year brought just over a 7% return on our investments with Blankenship Foster, and 4% with Kayne Anderson. Things have been improving for the past two months, and we will analyze our third quarter performance at our regular meeting in November.

Linda Hawk updated the Foundation regarding BOT projects and activities, including updates on the HVAC and Solar system, painting of the sanctuary, attempts to lease the open space in the UMC building and the work being done by the Property Transition Team.

Jason reported that we will need to nominate three replacement members for next year. We will address this matter in the November meeting. There will be an upcoming memorial service in conjunction with an evensong to honor members who have passed this year and an upcoming stewardship luncheon. We receive one gift in the amount of \$5,000 to undesignated funds from the Mary Lee Dickerson estate.

We continue to investigate ways to help church members with estate planning resources should they want help. We have also started work to update our investment policy, which is done every three years, and have been discussing whether a 5% distribution is still the correct target, or whether the Foundation can help the church even more. We also continue to monitor and compare performance of our two advisors.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Hubsmith

Church Council Report
Rev. Trudy D. Robinson ~ September 20, 2025

The five main areas of a Lead Pastor's responsibility:

1. Preaching/Teaching

- Preparing worship services, liturgies and Friday videos.
- Leading in worship at the 9AM traditional service.
- Curating content and leading the Tapestry service regularly.
- Continuing to guide, schedule, and facilitate the planning, development and recording of Perspectives, the bible study podcast.
- Teaching beyond the local church for Clergy Groups, the Western Jurisdiction and the Cal Pac Conference about the vision casting of the ReWilding process.
- Gained the support from the PPR to pursue more opportunities to write about and teach the ReWilding vision.

2. Administer Staff and Leadership Committees

- Working through PPR with complaints and conflicts within the congregation.
- Working through the transition of Demmie's retirement, including updating the job description, finding an interim and, despite her resistance, a reception to honor her service.
- Anticipating posting the job on 9/22 with an open application process through October 20
- Will be forming an Interview Team to assist in the final selection
- Working with the Music Department and Jason Tucker to collaborate on an Evensong Service and the Covenant Circle Memorial Gathering on November 1, for the benefit of both ministries and the people who would attend.

3. Vision Planning and Implementation

- Working with the Property Transition Team (PTT) on due diligence in the exploration of affordable housing for Mission Valley.
- Working with the PTT and Conference representation to transition the Ocean Beach property into the ownership of the Cal-Pac Conference.

4. Stewardship and Funding the church

- Began planning with our Director of Stewardship and Development, Jason Tucker, the Stewardship program for the fall.
- Working with Jason Tucker, Linda Hawk and Kenton Hundley for funding for Dream School of the Arts.

5. Self-Care

- Family vacation to Hawaii at the end of July, during which I renewed my joy for scuba diving. This time with manta rays.
- A few short opportunities to visit the grandkids always bring me joy.
- I continue to work out at a local gym on a regular basis, seek a massage therapist regularly and do my best to eat healthy, sleep well, and find ways to play.

Report to Church Council (September 2025 on Q2-3)
Rev. Dr. Hannah Ka, Pastor of Discipleship

SMALL GROUPS

- New Groups:
 - Online women's group resumed monthly gatherings.
 - "Page Turners" (6 seed members) launched a lay-led weekly Sunday study.
- Neighborhood: All 8 neighborhood groups continue to meet.
 - Mission Valley/Serra Mesa group now meets at church with programs.
 - Resources being prepared for all neighborhood groups.
- By Demographics/Interests:
 - The RIVER (LGBTQIA) began a study of *Radical Love: Introduction to Queer Theology* with 13 participants; in-person social on Oct. 1.
 - Young Adults beginning *Wholehearted Faith* this month.
 - Parents Forum resumed, needs more participation and structure.
 - Convergence continues after Tapestry (8–10 average attendance weekly).
 - Exploring podcast use in small groups with Communications.
 - Social gathering with Confirmands held Aug. 2.
- Mission/Outreach:
 - *Shoes That Fit* fundraising in October 19 and 26.
 - *Showers of Blessings* meets monthly; faithful volunteers, more group participation encouraged.
 - *Interactive Wisdom* (formerly SD School of Christian Studies) recorded first podcast.
 - Cherokee Point Backpack Drive Back-to-School Night BBQ: nearly 300 backpacks donated; >300 guests served BBQ (lay-led by Julie Hatch & James Mills).

HOSPITALITY & MEMBERSHIP

- Monthly *Coffee and Clergy* well attended by visitors.
- Lay hospitality team development delayed. Need more volunteers.
- Largest cohort in New Beginnings membership class (Aug. 24), many newcomers via podcasts, Tapestry, and online services. 15 will be received on Sep. 21.

ENGAGEMENT/LEARNING

- New 90-second explainer videos premiered pre-service (thanks to production team & pastors).
- Per the recommendation of the Engagement Discipleship Task Force, volunteer videos are being produced to expand our digital library and to encourage a shift

- from gathering to serve together at the church, toward being dispersed into neighborhoods to serve within each person's own community.

WORDS & SACRAMENTS

- Two adults in baptism prep.
- Continued to find joy in wrestling with Scripture and sharing them through preaching and teaching in small groups, via podcasts, 1:1.

MINISTRY BEYOND LOCAL CHURCH

- Serving on District Committee on Ordained Ministry (celebrated Rick Cook & Scott Caprio's CLM renewals).
- Serving on Board of Western Jurisdiction Korean Ministry Plan.

SELF CARE

- 12-day trip to Iceland with my daughter.
- Preparing for empty nest: joined gym, swimming regularly.

Church Council Report: September 2025
Rev. Brittany Juliette Hanlin, Pastor of Connection and Care

Caring Ministries

I continue to work with the Caring Ministries of the church to meet the needs of congregants facing difficult health diagnoses and challenging personal situations. I continue to build relationships through pastoral calls, visits, and Sunday check-ins.

The **Caring Hearts** Team meets bi-weekly to discuss pastoral care needs in the congregation. The team continues to show great compassion as they strengthen connections and form new bonds. We continue to receive cards of thanks for our phone calls, cards, visits, and Christmas and Easter bag deliveries. We are preparing for Christmas bag making and distribution in December.

The **Stephen Ministry** will begin recruiting new Stephen Ministers this Fall. The application is available online and the deadline to apply is November 16. Training will begin January 10, 2026 and end on March 14, 2026. Trainings are scheduled for 10 Saturdays for five hours each week, in order to complete the 50-hours of required training. Stephen Leaders meet monthly to plan training sessions and supervision learning for current Stephen Ministers. We are experiencing an increased number of requests for Stephen Ministers from people outside of our congregation. We hope to recruit more male Stephen Ministers for the upcoming cohort as we have also seen an increase of male requests for a care.

The **Prayers and Squares** is looking for ways to grow and connect with younger generations. During many of my pastoral visits, people request prayer quilts or are comforted by my offer to have one sponsored for them.

The **Grief Support** group begins November 9-December 14, followed by a Blue Christmas Service on December 21, 2025. Sheilah Cameron, Director of NLCC and I are working together to prepare for the incoming group.

Children and Youth

Chapel Time for CGC resumed for the 2025-2026 school year on August 24 with 30 preschoolers, across three classrooms. I continue to work with Denise Vick, the Director of the Children's Growing Center to strengthen our relationship and we are seeing some fruit with a CGC family recently joining us for worship.

Sunday School has also resumed for the 2025-2026 program year, but we've made some changes. This year we are focusing on time and resources on strengthening our music and arts ministry for children. Our program incorporates traditional Sunday School lessons, music, art, mental health, STEAM, and musical performances in an effort to reach a larger demographic of families and to offer children a spectrum of learning opportunities. We have 18 Sunday School

volunteers this year. Dana Zimbric, Director of Primary Voices was instrumental in creating this year's schedule (attached). We look forward to what this year will bring!

Teaching

We continue to record the **Pastor's Podcast: Perspectives**, which has been a fun pastoral ministry to develop with the ministers and communications team.

The **2025 Sankofa Pilgrimage** changed from a three-city to one city pilgrimage. We spent our time in Chicago from June 5-9. The itinerary is attached. This year there were 11 sojourners, and our time together was truly enriching. We continue to unpack and discover hidden and not hidden histories while have meaningful, grace-filled conversations about what these truths mean to us as people of faith. I am very proud and honored to facilitate these learning opportunities because I have seen God show up in beautifully, unexpected ways. Having now explored the South, the East Coast and the Midwest, I am now preparing for next year's journey, exploring our neck of the woods: the West Coast, specifically California.

Plans are underway for Sankofa 2026 (California) and Sankofa 2027 which will take us to Ghana, West Africa in January. As always there is a required pre-study before each pilgrimage to prepare our hearts, minds, and spirits for what we will encounter and uncover together. More information forthcoming.

Worship

Worship and preaching responsibilities as assigned for 9:00 and Tapestry services.

Continuing Education

I am now in the final year of my **Doctor of Ministry** program at Emory's, Candler School of Theology. My degree program is Church Leadership, which differs from a PhD. My degree is in practical theology for the leadership in the church. As a requirement for my program, I went to Atlanta, August 17-20 for a writing and research workshop. I will defend my paper and project at a Symposium in Atlanta on April 26-29. Prayerfully, I will successfully defend my paper and project and graduate on May 9, 2026. Thank you to the leadership of this church for all of your support on this journey.