FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SAN DIEGO

Church Council Agenda
Saturday, September 12, 2026
8:30 –10:30 am Linder Hall 2 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 .... Laurie St. Gean

Devotional & Opening Prayer .... Rev.Trudy Robinson

Approval of Minutes April 25, 2026……..Laurie St. Gean

New Business:

Re-Wilding Review……………………………………………………..Rev. Trudy Robinson

Pastors' Report…………………………………………………………Rev. Trudy Robinson
Rev. Dr. Hannah Ka
Rev. Dr. Brittany J. Hanlin

Communications Update…………………………………………………Meghan Claussen
Dream School of the Arts Update………………………………………Kenton Reaves Hundley

Information Items:

All Church Gathering: Update on Re-Wilding	Sunday, September 13th 10:30 -12:30 p.m.
Tijuana Supply Collection	Sundays in September 10 – 11 a.m.
Evensong for Peace	Saturday, September 19th 4 p.m.
Page Turners 2026 Fall Study	Sundays, September 20-October 25 10:30 a.m.
Dream School of the Arts Gala	Saturday, September 26th 6-10 p.m.
Making Missions Meaningful Luncheon	Sunday, September 27th 12 – 2 p.m.

Adjournment…………………………………………………………Laurie St. Gean

Committee Reports
(Included with Agenda; please reach out to Chairs with any questions)

Finance Committee
Board of Trustees
Pastor-Parish Relations Committee
First United Methodist Foundation

Next Church Council Meeting: December 12, 2026 at 8:30 a.m.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SAN DIEGO
Church Council and Charge Conference Meeting
Saturday April 25, 2026
8:30 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:
Laurie St. Gean (Chair), David Kay, Christine Hoffman, Sharmon Davis, Sandy Price, Barb Weicksel, Ron Bower, Nanette Myers, Todd Vollstedt, Michael Zimbric, Laurie Tucker, Stephen Espiritu, Pam McMaster, Marilyn Stone, Rick Cook, Kent Schrock, Steve Mason, Betty Leal, Carol Blessing, Dana Hook, Tobias Crislip.

Pastors:
Rev. Dr. Lui Tran, Rev. Trudy Robinson, Rev. Dr. Hannah Ka, Rev. Brittany Hanlin

Staff:
Meghan Claussen, Garrett Doss-Ganucheau, Linda Hawk, Kenton Hundley, Guillermo Zepeda

In person guests:
Dawn Martin, Mel West, Christine Sawin-Smith, Barb Eveland, Dione Taylor, Nyla Marson

Online guests:
Joy Bush, Bruce & Cheryl Johnson, Scott Caprio, Beryl Flom, Linda Dotson

Church Council and Charge Conference Call to Order by Rev. Dr. Lui Tran at 8:47 a.m.

Devotional and opening prayer led by Laurie St. Gean.

Election of new Charge Conference Secretary, Guillermo Zepeda was nominated. Motion made, seconded, and approved by majority vote.

Rev. Trudy Robinson said voting will occur by a show of hands and if the voting was close, a secondary method using "https://www.polleverywhere.com/" will be used.

New Business – Charge Conference

Dawn Martin presented the following motion:

Move that the Special Charge Conference of First United Methodist Church San Diego, duly convened on April 25, 2026, hereby authorizes the Property Transition Team**,** comprised of Chair Lisa Meuser, Scott Caprio, Rick Cook, Nick Hubsmith, Dawn Martin, Belen

Poltorak, Janice Roudebush, Tom Trujillo, and Jason Tucker, with staff liaison Linda Hawk and pastors Rev. Brittany J. Hanlin and Rev. Trudy Robinson, to explore the possibility of developing affordable housing on the East Property of the Mission Valley campus, pursuant to the planning and financing requirements of ¶ 2544 of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2020/2024* (“*Discipline*”).

This authorization includes permission for the Property Transition Team to study the missional, legal, financial, architectural, community, and property-related feasibility of such a project; to consult with appropriate church, conference, district, legal, financial, architectural, housing, and development professionals; and to prepare recommendations for further action by the appropriate bodies of the church.

This motion is exploratory only and does not authorize the sale, lease, transfer, encumbrance, construction, financing, or final approval of any affordable housing project. Any future proposal shall be brought back for all further approvals required by the *Discipline*, including, as applicable, the requirements of ¶ 2544, any other relevant disciplinary provisions, federal, and state laws.

Motion was made, seconded, and approved by a unanimous vote. There were 22 “Yes” votes in person and 9 on Zoom, zero “No” votes, and no abstentions.

New Business – Church Council

Minutes from last meeting on December 13, 2025, were approved with one correction, to add Carol Blessing as an attendee via Zoom. Motion was made, seconded, and approved by a majority vote.

Motion was made to approve the nomination for Scott Caprio to serve as an alternate lay delegate for the First UMC of San Diego to the Cal-Pac Annual Conference. Motion was made, seconded, and approved by a majority vote.

Motion was made to confirm Rebecca Luers in her studies and pursuit of call as a Certified Lay Servant. Motion was made, seconded and approved by a majority vote.

Motion was made to sunset the Guiding Principles, a framework that was set up by previous leadership. Since then, the Church has moved in a new direction. These principles were made part of the historical record. Motion was made, seconded and approved by the majority vote.

Updates:

Garrett Doss-Ganucheau and Guillermo Zepeda were introduced by Linda Hawk. Garrett is in the role of new Director of Stewardship and Development. Guillermo is the new Administrative Coordinator.

Nan Myers, co-chair of Finance Committee, gave a recap of the finance report. Expenditures and giving are good. Need to find a tenant for UMC building to increase revenue. Closing the Ocean Beach location resulted in a surplus of funds. Dream School of the Arts exceeded budget by 7% in FY 2025. Operating fund, Children's Growing Center and New Life Counseling Center are close to budget for Q1.

Mel West, vice chair of the Board of Trustees, gave a recap of the Board of Trustees Report. The monument sign in P1 needs repairs and a repaint, which is in progress. Parking lot P7 needs to be repaved, painted, and brought into ADA compliance. An ADA consultant recommended moving handicap parking to P5. Solar panels are not performing as guaranteed by the vendor. The board is considering bringing in legal counsel to explore resolution options.

Dana Hook, chair of Pastor Parish Relations Committee (PPRC), gave a recap of the PPRC report. They talked about who the church is, its future, and who we are as a congregation.

Kent Schrock, vice chair of First United Methodist Foundation, gave a recap of the investment reports. They nominated new officers this year. The board is exploring the feasibility of the consolidation of investment managers to one. Mel West is tasked with whether funds can be combined.

Kenton Reaves Hundley, Executive Director of Dream School of the Arts, gave a recap of the Dream School report. First quarter is strong, with great momentum, and added two new students. Accomplished greater engagement in community, and has new volunteers. Held an event sponsored by Lululemon, which raised $2k. Secured $7k in funds with Garrett's help. Raised $8k in individual donations. Summer programs are in the process of finalization.

Meghan Claussen, Director of Communications, gave a recap of the communications report. The Church uses social media to communicate with potential visitors. Strategy shows what we are about and our focus, inclusivity, and worship style. Our image matches what we are doing. Facebook, Instagram, Youtube, and Pintrest are the platforms in use. Posting clips from the sermon and podcasts to YouTube have shown positive results. Link is set up for Meghan to publish events in Enews and social media.

Rev. Trudy Robinson, Lead Pastor, shared that Rev. Hannah Ka is working on getting people out in the community. Rev. Brittany Hanlin is defending her thesis on Tuesday April 28, 2026. Rev. Trudy also shared information about the Sankofa pilgrimage to Ghana in 2027 and a new pilgrimage for this year in Southern CA.

Rev. Trudy talked about the panel discussion about the landscape of the white church. Dr. Karl Martin is facilitating, and follow-up sessions are planned. The panel discussion and potluck are planned for Sunday, May 17th.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Laurie at 9:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Guillermo Zepeda,
Secretary/Administrative Coordinator

Church Council Report
Rev. Trudy D. Robinson ~ September 12, 2026

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

1. Preaching/Teaching
    - Continuing to challenge our preaching as we reach deeper into some theological concepts and greater inclusion through the Imago Dei 2.0 and What We Really Mean When We Talk About 2.0 sermon series
    - Encouraging and supporting the voices of our Associate Pastors in the pulpit as they bring their wisdom and inspiration.
    - When invited, I continue to teach pastors and churches, the fundamentals of the ReWilding Process.
    - Continuing to learn and to teach through the Perspectives podcast conversations.
    - Expanding the conversation partners for Perspectives podcast.
    - Along with Rev. Brittany, the fourth Sankofa Pilgrimage included learning and teaching, support, care, and encouragement, as we visited place in San Diego and Los Angeles.
2. Administer Staff and Leadership Committees
    - Continued mentoring and advising staff members, particularly the new hires.
    - Celebrating the staff and our cohesiveness and competence.
    - Celebrating the laity who come alongside our staff for many aspect of ministry, maintenance, and programing.
    - Continual supervision of staff and the completion of mid-year evaluations for all direct reports.
3. Vision Planning and Implementation
    - Continuing to consider what next steps are suggested by our ReWilding Process.
    - Along with the Property Transition Team, we have finalized and distributed the RFP for Affordable Housing on the east parcel. Currently part of the smaller review team to evaluate the four RFPs we have received.
    - Supporting the Dream School of the Arts Gala: "Lights, Camera, Auction!" on September 26th by seeking auction donations and sponsorship, and encouraging ticket sales. I will be present to help during the event as well.
    - Led the compilation of the Rewilding Process and its impact for the All Church Gathering, ReWilding Review on September 13, in an effort to continue to make people aware of the intentional changes we have made to our culture, ministries and understanding, especially since many new members where not here for ReWilding in 2023.
4. Stewardship and Funding the church
    - Working with our Director of Stewardship and Development, Garrett Ganucheau, to evaluate, explore and expand our programs, particularly the Covenant Circle and its planning team, and the Annual Stewardship Campaign for the Operating Budget.
5. Self-Care
    - Enjoyed a family vacation to Greece, followed by a solo cruise for two weeks of unplugging.
    - Welcomed by Denver family to San Diego and was overjoyed to have them participate in the Family Fun Fest in August.
    - Following up on doctor's recommendations and testing for optimal health.
    - 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.
    - Regular communication with my daughters and friends.

Report to Church Council (September 2026 on Quarter 2 and 3)
Rev. Dr. Hannah Ka, Pastor of Discipleship

SMALL GROUPS: ENGAGEMENT/LEARNING

A big shout-out to our neighborhood organizers, who continue to bring people together for fellowship and mutual care. One neighborhood has also developed a deeper discipleship gathering through discussion and book study. This year, I shifted from monthly visits to periodic support so I could invest more intentionally in emerging discipleship opportunities while encouraging greater lay ownership.

I am also grateful for the many lay leaders and volunteers carrying our mission beyond the church walls—supporting local schools, serving food-insecure neighbors and migrants, and responding to needs close to their homes and hearts. This reflects an important fruit of our 2023 Re-Wilding work. The church is a place that equips and inspires people to live out their faith in the world. We have invited the congregation to share what they care deeply about and where they are already putting their faith into action. With Meghan's help, we now also have a Serve page on our website highlighting many of these opportunities.

Gracebound is another encouraging development. It grew out of conversations with young adults in a new-members class who shared honestly about their experiences of church and the questions they still carry. We now have two Gracebound groups meeting regularly, with conversations shaped by participants' own questions and experiences. Both remained steady through the summer, including during my vacation. I am also developing opportunities to visit different ethnic neighborhoods in San Diego to learn about their cultures and immigration histories, deepening our understanding of our neighbors and the diverse community in which we live.

More broadly, groups such as The River, Page Turners, Convergence, and our young adult ministries continue to grow through lay leadership, shared facilitation and participant-led conversation. My own role has increasingly shifted from leading every gathering myself toward cultivating leaders, creating frameworks for meaningful discipleship, and helping people connect their faith with service in the world.

HOSPITALITY & MEMBERSHIP

Monthly Coffee and Clergy continues to give visitors and newcomers an easy way to connect with pastors and with one another. I am grateful for the congregation's warmth in welcoming new faces and helping people feel at home. As participation has grown, Coffee and Clergy is increasingly serving as a natural bridge into New Beginnings for those who are ready to explore deeper connection and membership.

We continue to draw a more diverse group of people into the life of the church. Some choose to become members, while others remain actively engaged in small groups, ministries, or faithful worship attendance. Realm Pathways helps us follow their gradual engagement and stay connected over time, thanks in large part to Guillermo's excellent and efficient administrative work. Developing a broader lay hospitality team remains a next step, with a continued need for additional volunteers.

WORDS & SACRAMENTS

The ministry of Word and Sacrament has continued to deepen as an expression of discipleship for me. Preparing families for baptism, along with time spent in one-on-one conversations and Gracebound, has helped me listen more closely to people's lived experiences and find ways to connect them with God's Word. I continue to find joy in wrestling with Scripture and sharing it through preaching, teaching, podcasts, small groups, and personal conversations.

This fall, I also plan to begin inviting youth and families into the 2026–2027 Confirmation class, creating another intentional space for young people to explore faith, ask questions, and grow into a deeper sense of belonging in the church.

CLERGY RENEWAL GRANT AND LEAVE: Spring of 2027 and 2028

Our congregation has been selected for a 2026 Clergy Renewal grant through Christian Theological Seminary, funded by Lilly Endowment. The current plan is for me to take eight weeks of renewal leave after Easter in both 2027 and 2028, with time focused on rest, reflection, relationships, and renewal for continued ministry.

MINISTRY BEYOND LOCAL CHURCH

- Serving as a delegate to Western Jurisdictional Conference for the 2026–2030 quadrennium.
- Serving as Dean of Madang, supporting Korean American clergy in cross-cultural and cross-racial appointments.
- Serving on the Board of the Western Jurisdiction Korean Ministry Plan.

SELF CARE

- Took a two-week vacation with my daughter in August.
- Continue to exercise regularly and attend to sustainable rhythms of rest and renewal.

Church Council Report: September 2026
Rev. Brittany Juliette Hanlin, Pastor of Connection and Care

Caring Ministries

The work of the Caring Ministries of the church continues and our goal is to meet the needs of congregants facing difficult health diagnoses and challenging personal situations.

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. Easter bags and boxes were welcomed with gratitude from recipients. We are working to make sure our lists are accurate and up to date as some people have died or are no longer members of our congregation.

We continue to hold space for grieving families and remember the loved ones from our congregation who've passed with **memorial services and inurnments** in the Memorial Garden and off-site in some cases. Services for Bill Watt, Vicky Collins, and Dave Watters to name a few, were celebrations of remembrance and an honoring of their lives. We have a few services on the calendar for this fall as well.

Stephen Ministry meets every third Thursday of the month. Stephen Leaders meet monthly to plan training sessions and supervision learning for current Stephen Ministers. We are still hoping to get more interest in requests for a Stephen Minister as it is an additional support for people who may need it during this season of their lives. In the meantime, I am brainstorming with Sheilah Cameron, Director of the NLCC on ways to utilize our Stephen Ministers in meaningful ways in other caring ministries.

The **Prayers and Squares** continues to look for ways to grow and connect with younger generations. They are planning their upcoming workshop for this Fall.

The **Grief Support Group** is scheduled for this Fall starting Sunday, November 7 and concluding with the Blue Christmas Service on Sunday, December 20. All are welcome to attend the service, especially those who are navigating the complexity of grief in its many forms. I've been asked by a few congregants about the upcoming Grief Support Group, so I hope they will register next month so that Sheilah and I can adequately prepare materials for participants.

Children and Youth

Chapel Time for CGC ended for this school year on May 20 for summer break and restarted on August 27 with the Blue Team, Yellow Team and Orange Team. I was invited by Denise Vick to welcome the parents during their Parents Night on August 28. There was a good turn out and I hope we can garner a deeper relationship between CGC families and the congregation.

Sunday School started on August 13, with sessions from the New Life Counseling Center on healthy living. Children and teens were invited into the conversation and learning. The NLCC sessions were for three weeks and traditional Sunday School for the elementary aged children began on Sunday, September 6. Traditional Sunday School uses the Cokesbury Curriculum, while teachers are encouraged to use other games and crafts to make the lesson more interactive and engaging for the kids. Dana Zimbric, the Director of Children's Music Ministry will begin Christmas Pageant rehearsal with the children and teens on November 15. The Christmas Pageant will be the first of our Christmas Eve services on December 24.

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 **Sankofa Pilgrimage** this year journeyed through Southern California. The pre-study had nearly 30 people online and in-person. We started the pilgrimage here in San Diego on July 8, visiting the Museum of Us for a workshop, the San History History Center for an exhibit on the Lost Neighborhoods of San Diego, followed by a group lunch in Barrio Logan. We also traveled to Julian and learned the extensive history of the town, along with the African American influence in pioneering the town. I highly commend all of the local/semi-local museums. We finished our pilgrimage in Los Angeles visiting the California African American History Museum, the Chinese American Museum and the Museum of Social Justice (located in the basement of a United Methodist Church). On our last day a man who was also staying in our hotel asked if could join us for the day. We welcomed him on our journey and shared in great conversation.

The Sankofa 2027 Pilgrimage to Ghana, West Africa is January 20- February 5, 2027. There are 11 people registered to attend. We are also looking forward to the Sankofa Choral Festival on November 7 and 8, hosted by the Music Department. The grammy award winning choir Tonality will perform on Saturday, November 7. This is a new and exciting way that our learning is interconnected.

Worship

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

Continuing Education

I graduated with my **Doctor of Ministry** from Emory University's Candler School of Theology on May 9, 2026. The three years of doctoral work in leadership were both challenging and rewarding and I am very thankful to have finished. I was also invited to write a Lenten reflection for the Journal for Preachers, outlining my doctoral research. It will be published in the 2027 Lenten addition. I am humbled and honored that facility at Candler and editors for the journal respected and appreciated my scholarship enough to ask me to share it in a different context.

First Church SD
Awareness & Engagement

Church Council Report
September 2026

FIRST CHURCH
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Radical Grace, Extravagant Love & Divine Justice *for* All

Awareness & Engagement Dashboard

Data as of July 31, 2026

WEBSITE	JULY	YTD (JAN-JULY)	12 MO (AUG25-JULY26)
New Visitors	2.8K	22.7K (↑)	38.7K (↑)
Web Visits (number of sessions)	4.8K	37.8K (↑)	65.6K (↓)
Engagement Rate (% sessions in which users interacted with website)	62.34%	52.03% (↓)	52.77% (↓)

SOCIAL (Facebook & Instagram)	JULY	YTD (JAN-JULY)	12 MO (AUG25-JULY26)
New Followers	41	602 (↓)	1.1K (↓)
Post Interactions	1.6K	11K (↑)	16.9K (↑)

YOUTUBE	JULY	YTD (JAN-JULY)	12 MO (AUG25-JULY26)
New Subscribers	33	217 (↓)	589 (↓)
Video Views	23.7K	143.6K (↓)	390.8K (↑)
% of Completion (average of how much a video is watched once started)	21.30%	20.90% (↓)	21.8% (↑)

TOTAL FOLLOWERS Facebook: 3.8K Instagram: 972 YouTube: 4.1K

PODCAST	JULY	YTD (JAN-JULY)	12 MO (AUG25-JULY26)
Views (YouTube, Apple, Spotify, Patreon)	2K	8.7K (↑)	12.4K (↑)
% of Completion (YouTube only; average of how much is watched once started)	8.90%	13.76% (↓)	17.09% (↓)

WORSHIP	JULY	YTD (JAN-JULY)	12 MO (AUG25-JULY26)
In-Person Attendance	1,112	9.6K (↑)	16.9K (-)
Livestream Viewers (1st week viewers x 1.5)	1,653	14.3K (↑)	24.1K (↑)

MONETIZATION (YouTube, Church Merch, Patreon)	JULY	YTD (JAN-JULY)	12 MO (AUG25-JULY26)
Amount Earned	$157.57	$699.73 (↓)	$1,775.52 (↑)

Patreon started Nov. 2024

Our blend of traditional worship & progressive theology is gaining traction. We continue to fill the pews on Sundays and gain new social media followers. Perspectives continues to grow its reach and views, with recent episodes being the most watched episodes of all times.

Additional Stats & Recent Activities

Worship Visitors & New Members:

- More than **200 new visitors** in worship the first half of 2026
- Newcomers express appreciation for digital presence and hybrid opportunities that fit their schedules

Digital Visibility & Engagement:

- Averaging 1,013 monthly viewers of **Perspectives Podcast** in 2026
- Over 178K 3+ second views of videos on Facebook and over 11.3K content interactions (reactions, saves, comments, and shares) on **Facebook & Instagram** in 2026
- FUMCSD is now on the **YouVersion Bible App** to create another digital touch point

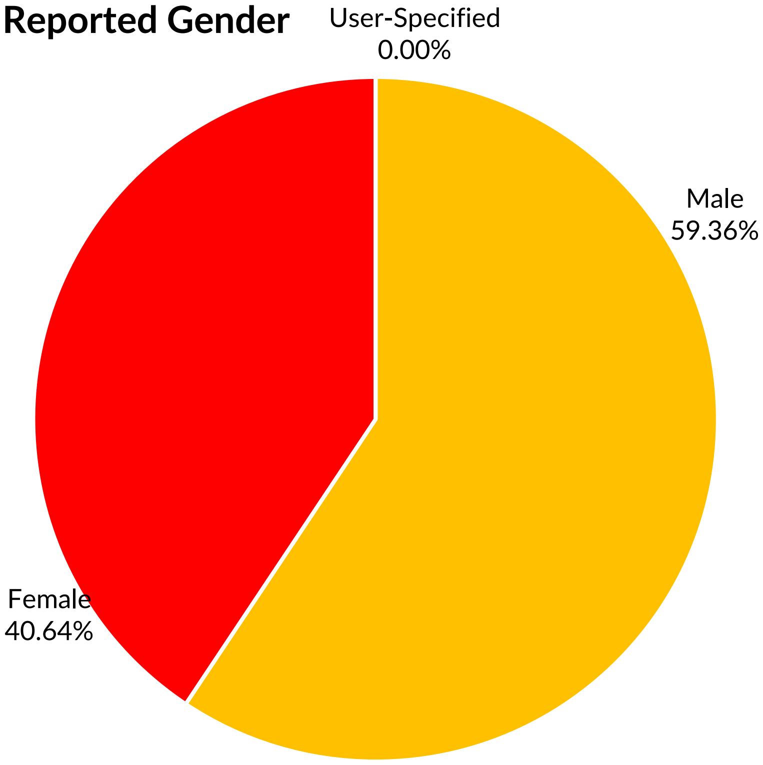
Compelling Content:

- Our **Taking Care of Mind, Body & Spirit** and **Imago Dei 2.0** podcast episodes have quickly become some of our most viewed episodes to date and the sermon and podcast clips garnered high engagement on Facebook & Instagram

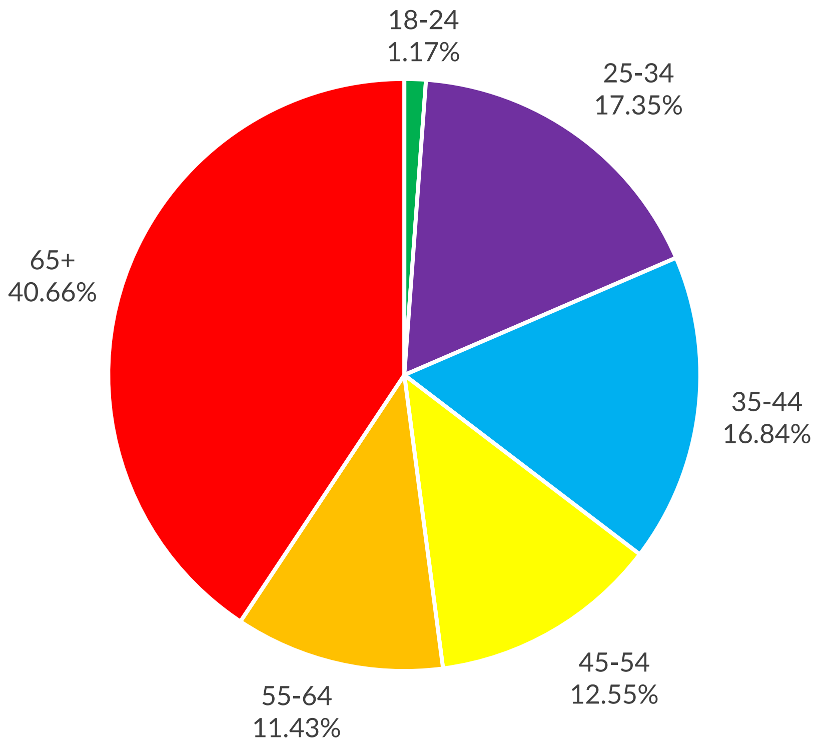
Audience

We continue to reach a mix of ages across the digital channels. Location is primarily Southern California, but some paid social is targeting all of California.

Reported Gender



Reported Age



Cities	Views
San Diego	2,517
Los Angeles	710
Chula Vista	112
Santee	76
El Cajon	75
Escondido	60
Seattle	51
La Mesa	49
San Jose	48
Phoenix	41

Represents: *Facebook/Instagram subscribers, YouTube video views, website visitors. Excludes cities outside of western U.S.*

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

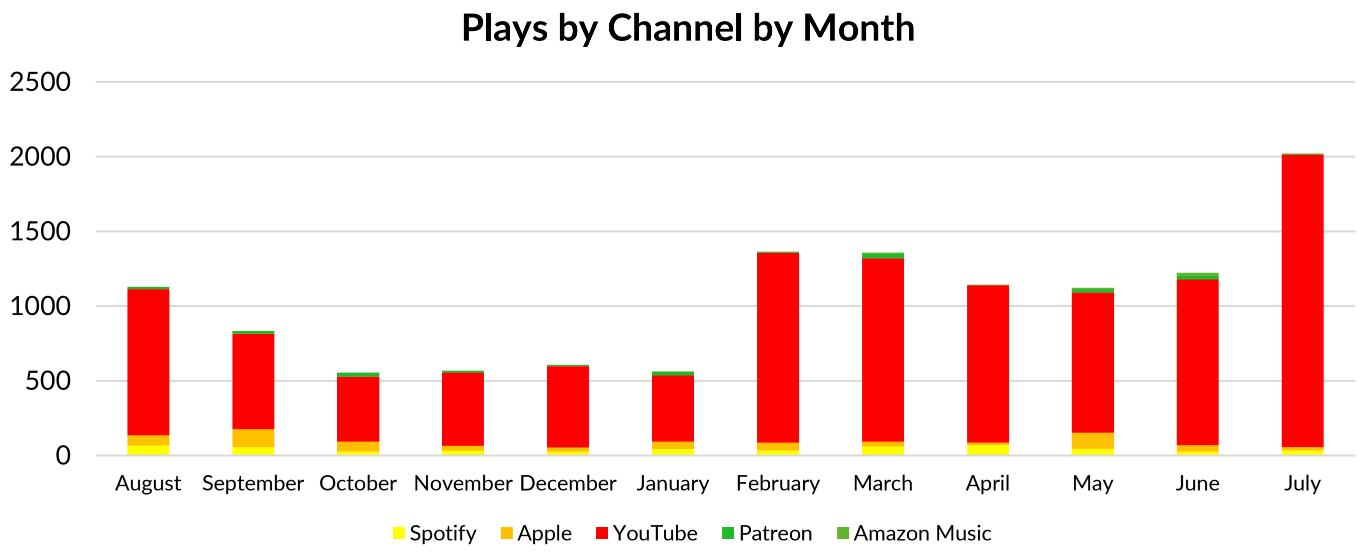
Podcast

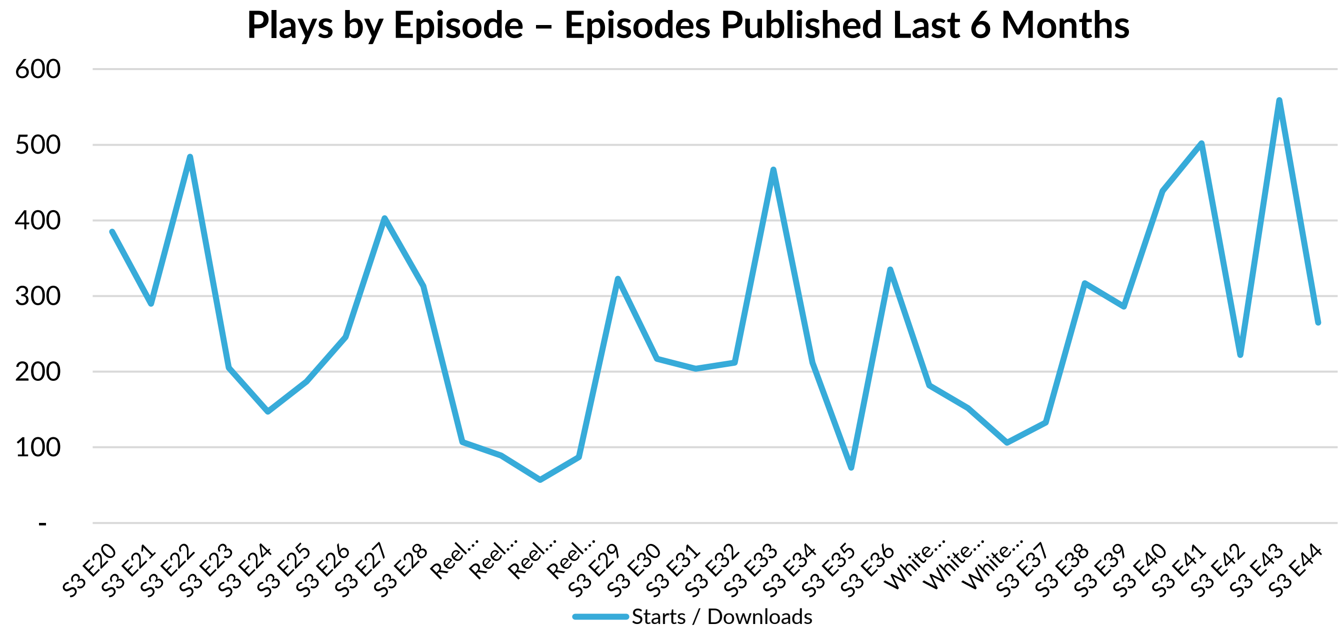
In July, we had the most number of episode plays and unique viewers/listeners that we've ever achieved in a given month. Monthly viewers/listeners and average play per episode have doubled thanks to our social media strategy. The reels continue to get high engagement on social media, with individuals clicking through to see the episode on YouTube.

PLAYS	JULY	YTD (JAN-JULY)	12 MO (AUG25-JULY26)
Episode Avg	384	246 (↑) (+99.19%)	193 (↑) (+54.40%)

LISTENERS / VIEWERS	JULY	YTD (JAN-JULY)	12 MO (AUG25-JULY26)
Monthly Avg	1.6K	1K (↑) (+200.24%)	704 (↑) (+109.65%)

TIME	JULY	YTD (JAN-JULY)	12 MO (AUG25-JULY26)
Monthly Avg	97.7 hours	72 hours (↑) (+43.66%)	70 hours (↑) (+31.81%)





Social Media

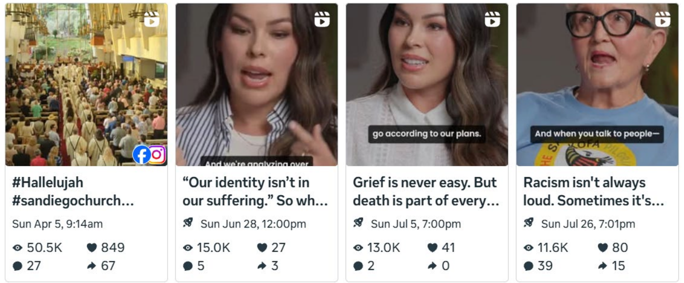
Our podcast and sermon clips continue to get solid engagement on Facebook and Instagram. Our new followers have been down due to boosted posts being focused on YouTube visits. We will do follower campaign in August & September to help grow the channels.

NEW FOLLOWERS	JULY	YTD (JAN-JULY)	12 MO (AUG25-JULY26)
Facebook	28	294 (↓) (-64.87%)	640 (↓) (-51.44%)
Instagram	13	308 (↑) (+31.06%)	452 (↑) (+47.23%)

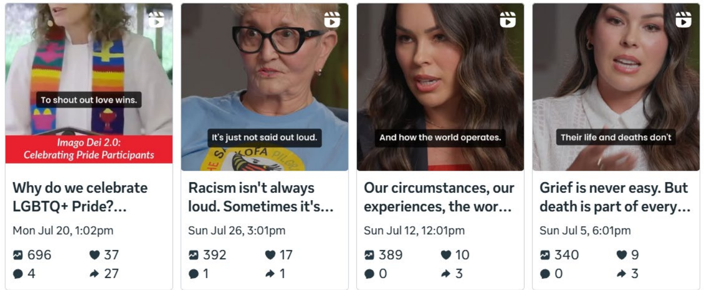
ENGAGEMENT	JULY	YTD (JAN-JULY)	12 MO (AUG25-JULY26)
Facebook	1K	7.3K (↑) (+14.53%)	11.8K (↑) (+8.80%)
Instagram	615	3.6K (↑) (+17.72%)	5.1K (↓) (-3.43%)

VIDEO RETENTION (FACEBOOK)	JULY	YTD (JAN-JULY)	12 MO (AUG25-JULY26)
3 Second	26.7K	157K (↑) (+123.43%)	243.6K (↑) (+155.79%)

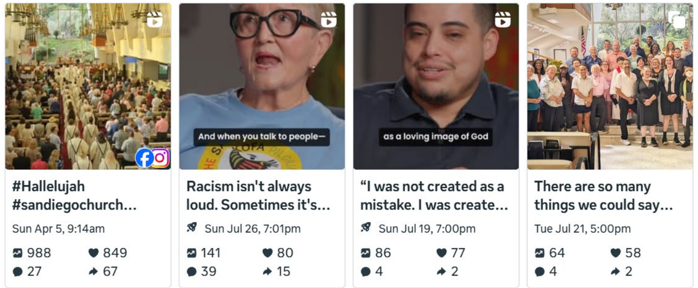
Top Content Views: Facebook



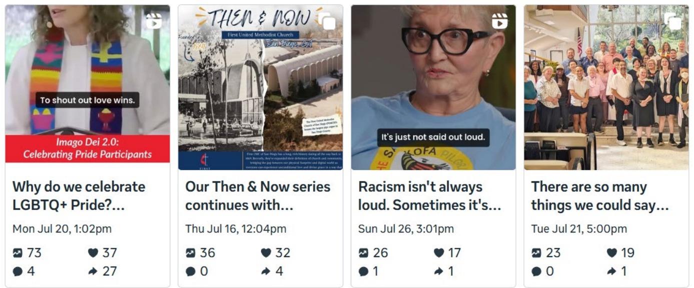
Top Content Reach: Instagram



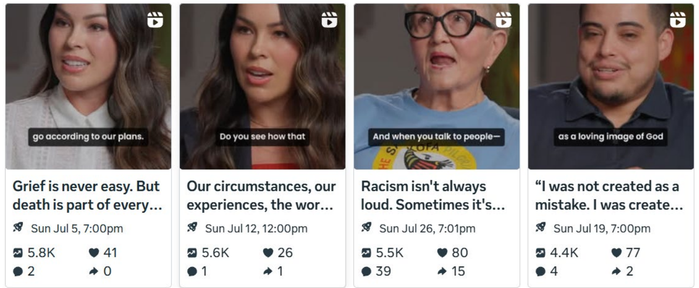
Top Content Interactions: Facebook



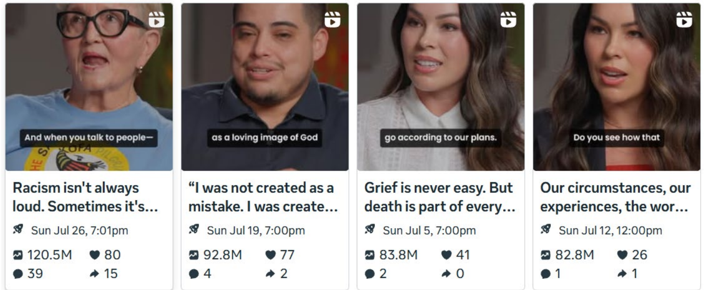
Top Content Interactions: Instagram



Facebook Video Views: 3-Second+



Facebook Video Views: Watch Time



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Dream School of the Arts

For Church Council Meeting 09.12.26

Program and Organizational Update

April–September 2026

Executive Summary

Since April 2026, Dream School has continued to develop from a small after-school enrichment program into a broader community-based model focused on **Arts Enrichment, Healthy Living, and Academic Support (A-HA)**.

While enrollment and student participation remain important measures of our progress, our growth over the past several months has increasingly been defined by **capacity, partnerships, volunteer engagement, fundraising, and the development of new revenue streams**.

The program has continued serving elementary students while expanding opportunities for high school volunteers and college interns to participate as mentors, leaders, and contributors. At the same time, Dream School has strengthened its fundraising efforts, submitted new grant proposals, expanded individual giving, and begun developing earned revenue through the launch of Adult Nutrition Classes.

The result is an organization that remains intentionally small enough to provide individualized attention while developing the infrastructure necessary for responsible and sustainable growth.

Program Growth and Student Engagement

During the spring 2026 session, Dream School served approximately **nine elementary students**.

While this enrollment represented a relatively small program, it provided an important opportunity to evaluate and strengthen the Dream School model. The spring session allowed us to refine programming, identify student and family needs, and further establish the A-HA framework.

Since its launch, Dream School has now worked with **more than 17 elementary students overall**.

Our current goal is to increase enrollment to approximately **20–25 students**, within an estimated annual program capacity of **20–30 students**.

This approach reflects our commitment to growing intentionally. Rather than prioritizing enrollment numbers alone, Dream School is focused on ensuring that growth is supported by appropriate staffing, curriculum, partnerships, volunteer capacity, facilities, and financial resources.

Our student population also continues to reflect the diversity of the communities we serve, with current demographic representation approximately **50% Latinx, 21% African American, 21% Caucasian, and 7% Asian American**.

Expanding the Model: High School Volunteers and College Interns

One of the most significant developments since April has been the expansion of Dream School's understanding of who participates in the program.

Historically, our primary measure of participation was the number of elementary students served. We are increasingly recognizing that Dream School creates opportunities for learning and leadership across multiple age groups.

High school volunteers and college interns are becoming an important part of the program's capacity and community impact.

For elementary students, these relationships provide additional mentors, role models, and opportunities for near-peer interaction. For high school students, volunteering provides opportunities to develop leadership, responsibility, and service experience. College interns gain practical experience in youth development, education, wellness, arts programming, and community engagement.

Our partnerships and connections with **the University of San Diego, SDSU, The Preuss School, Academy of Our Lady of Peace, and other educational and community organizations** have helped expand this aspect of the program.

This represents an important evolution in the Dream School model:

We are no longer measuring impact solely by how many children we serve. We are also measuring how many people we engage in creating a healthier, more creative, and more supportive environment for those children.

Summer Programming

Dream School conducted two summer sessions during 2026, from **June 8–25 and July 6–23**.

The summer program continued to provide students with experiences across the A-HA framework, including:

- Arts enrichment and creative projects
- Music and artistic expression
- Physical fitness and healthy living
- Nutrition education
- Science and STEM learning
- Academic support
- Community-building activities

The summer sessions also provided additional opportunities for volunteers, interns, and community partners to participate in programming and mentorship.

The experience reinforced the value of an integrated model in which students are not simply receiving supervision after school, but are participating in experiences designed to support their **creativity, physical well-being, academic development, leadership, and sense of belonging**.

Fundraising and Financial Development

Financial development has been another significant area of growth since April.

Since the previous organizational report, Dream School has received approximately **$11,000 in individual donations**. This represents an important indicator of growing community support and provides unrestricted resources that can be directed toward immediate program needs.

In addition, approximately **$28,000 in grant requests** have been submitted for operational and site-improvement needs.

Dream School has secured **more than $7,000 in grant funding**, including a **$5,000 grant from Blackbaud**, while continuing to pursue additional public and private funding opportunities.

We are also looking forward to hosting our inaugural gala fundraiser, **“Lights, Camera, Auction!”**, later this month. The event represents an important next step in building Dream School's fundraising capacity while bringing together supporters, community partners, families, and stakeholders to celebrate the program and invest in its future. Beyond the funds raised that evening, the gala provides an opportunity to introduce more members of the community to Dream School's mission and broaden our base of long-term supporters.

These efforts have contributed to and encouraged us as we begin assessing a true ability to reach our end-of-year fundraising goals.

Collectively, these activities represent an intentional effort to diversify Dream School's funding base rather than relying exclusively on a singular sources of support.

Developing Earned Revenue

A new component of Dream School's financial strategy will begin on **September 27, 2026**, with the launch of Adult Nutrition Classes.

The classes will extend Dream School's Healthy Living focus into the broader community while creating an opportunity for **earned revenue through a sliding-scale fee structure**.

The initial program period will run for approximately **three months leading into the holiday season**.

This initiative represents an important step toward developing a more diversified financial model for Dream School:

Grants + Individual Giving + Events + Earned Revenue

The purpose of developing earned revenue is not to replace philanthropic support or compromise Dream School's mission. Instead, it is to create additional financial flexibility and reduce dependence on any single funding source.

The Adult Nutrition Classes also provide an opportunity to test whether Dream School can develop programming that simultaneously **serves a broader community need and generates sustainable revenue for youth programming**.

Partnerships and Organizational Capacity

Dream School continues to strengthen a network of community, educational, and organizational partners.

Current and developing partnerships include **FUMCSD, our local elementary school partnerships, new home school partnerships, Villa Musica, the University of San Diego, SDSU, Preuss, Adams Ave Theatere, Adams Avenue Fitness, Paleo Treats, and other community partners**.

These partnerships contribute resources that extend beyond direct financial support. They provide access to volunteers, interns, educators, artists, wellness professionals, facilities, mentorship, and community networks.

As a result, partnerships are increasingly becoming a core component of Dream School's organizational model.

The objective is to build an organization in which growth is supported not simply by increasing enrollment, but by increasing the **network of people and organizations contributing to student success**.

Organizational Development and Next Steps

As Dream School enters the next phase of development, our focus is shifting from proof of concept toward **sustainable and measurable growth**.

Key priorities for the coming months include:

1. **Student Recruitment and Enrollment**
   Continue recruiting elementary students with a goal of reaching approximately 20–25 students while maintaining program quality.
2. **Volunteer and Internship Development**
   Expand opportunities for high school volunteers and college interns to contribute to mentoring, programming, and organizational capacity.
3. **Fundraising and Grant Development**
   Continue pursuing institutional grants while expanding individual giving and community-based fundraising.
4. **Earned Revenue Development**
   Launch and evaluate Adult Nutrition Classes as a sliding-scale earned-revenue initiative.
5. **Community Partnerships**
   Strengthen existing relationships and develop new partnerships that expand Dream School's educational, artistic, wellness, and financial capacity.
6. **Program Measurement**
   Continue developing systems to measure not only enrollment, but also participation, volunteer engagement, programming hours, student development, community engagement, and financial sustainability.

Dream School by the Numbers

Measure	Current Status

Elementary students served overall	**17+**
Spring 2026 enrollment	**9 students**
Near-term enrollment goal	**20–25 students**
Estimated annual capacity	**20–30 students**
Individual donations since previous report	**$11,000**
Grant requests submitted	**$28,000**
Grants secured	**$7,000+**
Blackbaud Community grant	**$5,000**
End-of-year fundraising goal	**$20,000**
Initial Adult Nutrition Classes revenue period	**3 months**

Conclusion

The most important development for Dream School since April has not been a single enrollment number or fundraising total. It has been the gradual development of a **more complete organizational model, as a community center, not just an after-school program.**.

Dream School began with a relatively simple premise: provide elementary students with a safe, creative, healthy place to learn and grow.

Today, that premise is expanding.

Elementary students remain at the center of the program, but they are increasingly surrounded by high school volunteers, college interns, educators, artists, coaches, community volunteers, and organizational partners.

At the same time, Dream School is developing multiple sources of financial support through grants, individual giving, fundraising events, and earned revenue.

The organization remains intentionally small, but its infrastructure, partnerships, and vision are growing.

Our next phase is about demonstrating that this model can be **effective, measurable, financially sustainable, and scalable** without losing the personal relationships and community-centered approach that make Dream School distinctive.

Ultimately, the goal is not simply to serve more students.

It is to build a community in which young people are **safe, responsible, respected, encouraged, empowered, and elevated** — while creating meaningful opportunities for the broader community to invest in their success.

Small enough to know every student's name.
Strong enough to build a model worth investing in.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SAN DIEGO
REPORT TO CHURCH COUNCIL
FINANCE COMMITTEE
September 12, 2026

- Is it September already? This year is flying as we wrap up Quarter 3 and head into the last quarter of the fiscal year.

- This report is based on our financials as of July 31st since the month end close for August is in progress.

- For the Operating Fund, total revenues are 96% of the Year to Date (YTD) budget. Current year pledges are at 94% (variance of $31,608) of budget and Record of Giving is at 84% (variance at $20,265). This is due to a combination of factors: Financial pressures, timing of pledges and preference for unpledged giving.

- Total expenditures are within 98% of budget projections, ending July with an operating fund gap between the YTD budget vs. actuals of $21,776.

- The Children's Growing Center is experiencing the impact of Transitional Kindergarten in our public schools. Total YTD revenues are at 96% of the budget or short by $32,243. The fall term started on August 10th, and we are at capacity for infants and toddlers. Denise Vick, Director of CGC, is actively recruiting 3–4-year-olds.

- Expenditures for CGC are over 1% or $9,503 due to costs associated with credit card processing fees, outsourced staffing and building repairs. The Center ended July 31st with a negative budget variance of $42,746.

- The New Life Counseling Center is exceeding revenue projections by 19% and is within the budget for expenditures at 96%. The Center ended July 31st with a positive budget variance of $8,147.

- The East Property Fund is at 73% of its revenue budget due to not securing a tenant for the second floor of the United Methodist Center. Expenses are at 99% of the budget and due to the revenue shortfall, the East Property Fund has a negative budget variance of $69,423 as of July 31st.

- While we lost Here Comes the Bride as a tenant, we were able to secure a lease with California Bridal & Veil Company to ensure a steady revenue stream for this location at 2225 Camino del Rio South. Their tenancy was effective April 1, 2026.

- Dream School of the Arts' revenue budget is at 110% as of July 31st. We hope you will join us at the Gala on September 26th at the Adams Avenue Theater and bid on the wide variety of auction items provided by our gracious donors.

- Expenses for Dream School are at 109%, and we will continue to monitor as we are in the third year of programming.

- The Finance Committee will start the FY 2027 budget process in October with a recommendation to the Church Council at its December meeting.

- We have asked the Finance Team to prepare multi-year budget models to project both revenues and expenditures for the next three years so we can be proactive in ensuring we are prudent stewards of the Church's resources.

It is our honor to serve the Church as co-chairs and thank all the members who agreed to remain on the Finance Committee with us this year.

Phyllis Sarkaria and Nan Myers

Board of Trustees
Report to Church Council
September 12, 2026

Since our last report to the Church Council on April 25, 2026, we have completed the painting of all the exterior of 2105 Camino del Rio South which includes the Chapel, Music Center, Memorial Garden, walkway columns, and wrought iron railings and gates. In addition, the Bell Tower has been cleaned and repainted and the Monument sign has been refurbished and painted.

At our September 2025 Church Council Meeting, the board reported that not all the bells in the Bell Tower were working. Although we approved and completed some needed work, more needed to be done and the completion of the needed work was deferred to the 2026 priority list and budget. We have contracted with SF Glaser to make the needed repairs to the bells. Although much of the work is complete, we still have three other solenoids that need replacement and we expect to approve the funding for this work at our September Board of Trustees meeting. The Crew now has the outside microphone working and we have repaired enough of our bells so that the sound of the ringing can now be heard in the Sanctuary at the beginning of our service. We hope you enjoy the return of the sound of our bells!

One of our priorities this year was the relocating of the flagpole from the property at 2225 Camino del Rio South next to our church property. The relocating of the flagpole has been completed, and a new flag is now in place, and the flag is lit at night. The flag can easily be seen both day and night from the freeway as well as from across the business on the north side of the Valley.

Following a special presentation from the Executive Director of the Dream School, Kenton Reaves Hundley, and members of the school's board, the BOT approved $70K to augment their 2026 budget. The BOT suggested ways the Dream School might increase their impact and increase enrollment by including the offering of a full 5 day week of activities as well as opening opportunities to third graders. The Dream School representatives were open to the suggestions and plan to report back after consideration.

Although we try to address those items that were established as priorities, many times items not on our list become an immediate priority out of necessity. Leaky roofs and backed up plumbing fall into that category. The roof on the Children's Growing Center was damaged when solar panels were installed, resulting in water intrusion into the center's offices and classrooms. The solar panels, with the coordination of Sunistics, were removed as were the existing roof. The building now has a new roof, and the solar panels are back in place.
A portion of the sewer drain line required repair to increase flow capacity and reduce risk of future backups or clogs. This required pipe relining of the sewer drain. With our aging property, we will need to continue to repair and replace leaking pipes and roofs.

At our last Church Council meeting, we reported on the steps we were taking to try to resolve the issues of our underperforming solar system. At that time, we had submitted a strongly worded letter to Michael Knight requesting compensation for breach of contract as well as lost savings from the solar system that was expected and was guaranteed by Sunistics. Sunistics response to our letter was refusal to accept responsibility for the underperformance of the solar system. We have since brought in Dr. Michael Snell, President of Sungenia Solar Solutions, to evaluate our system.

The report he made on our system validated the findings of two of our own in-house experts. The report highlighted standard practice violations on solar installation as well as some significant breaches of contract on the part of Sunistics. We have since engaged an attorney, Nathan Low, who is now overseeing all communication with Sunistics. Mr. Low has submitted a Demand Letter which outlines the issues we have had with the installation and performance of the solar system installed by Sunistics. Sunistics' response resolves themselves of any wrongdoing but has agreed to mediation. We are working with Mr. Low to resolve our issues and secure compensation for the loss savings from the solar system.

Respectfully submitted
Janice Roudebush
Chairperson of Board of Trustees

Pastor/Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Report to Church Council

April 25, 2026

- We met as a committee on August 6 in person and Zoom. We spent a good amount of time discussing what we can do to be part of the congregation and support our pastors.

- We will meet again by Zoom September 9th.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Hook
Chair

FOUNDATION REPORT TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 12, 2026

We held our second quarter meeting on Tuesday August 4th, 2026. Both advisors presented their 2nd quarter investment performance reports. The 3rd quarter meeting is scheduled for Wednesday November 4th at 5:15 PM via zoom.

INVESTMENT ADVISOR REPORTS

Blankenship and Foster is managing $7,716.700 with YTD return of 9.11% (net of fees). Kayne, Anderson Rudnick (KAR) is managing $4,334,119 with an annual return of 1.82% (before fees).

Rod (KAR) was excused from the meeting due to illness. Rick (B & F) provided a market update, expressing a positive outlook about the market's resilience despite current challenges related to conflict in the Middle East and Russia/Ukraine. He noted that corporate earnings and forecasts remain strong.

STEWARDSHIP AND TRUSTEE PROJECTS UPDATES

Garrett is working on the upcoming stewardship campaign which will include guidelines about how to use qualified charitable distributions to help with taxes while giving to the church.

Mel West reported on a completed project to consolidate or reclassify as many of our various funds as possible into existing funds serving similar purposes. A committee had been set up in the first quarter to work on this effort with Garrett and Linda Hawk. The Foundation Board approved consolidation of 7 funds in to existing similar funds. The Board of Trustees, with control of 6 funds need to vote on consolidation of those funds. We have a list of the funds should anyone have questions. This project is completed.

The most challenging and important project we are working on has been to prepare a Request for Proposal (RFP) to evaluate our investment advisory services. As we prepared for this effort, we consulted with Rev. Woodall at the conference level to discuss best practices. One of those practices is to formally evaluate our advisors every five years. We are well beyond that timeframe. We notified both of our current advisors of our intention to conduct an RFP for our investment advisory services. Both advisors agreed with this "best practice" and will receive the RFP. We are looking to reduce fees and perhaps improve our overall returns yet stay within our investment and distribution bylaws. Kent Schrock has been leading the subcommittee. After six drafts the RFP was finalized just this past week and went out on September 3rd to five selected investment companies with local offices. The Foundation Board has a projected decision date of November 13th, which is flexible if need be. Garrett will be managing the RFP process for the Board.

Respectfully,

Nick Hubsmith, Foundation Chair