

August Council Meeting Minutes
August 17th, 2026 at 6 pm; Hybrid (in person + Zoom)

Present: Pastor Steve, Matthew Chapman, Jennifer Davis, Kristie Evans, Eric Breitenstein, Amy Atkins, James Holden, Jonathan Stamey, Theresa Richards, Lynn Caldwell, Mike Seden, & Morgan Wright

Absent: Jesse Lutabingwa & Liz Peter

1. Call to Order - made by James @ 6:01 PM
2. Devotion – Morgan. We made a leap of faith in passing the new budget. Morgan looked for quotes of encouragement. 2 Corinthians 9:6 & 7b. The person who sows many seeds will reap a bountiful crop; God loves the one who gives gladly. Philippians 4:19 - and with all his abundance my God will supply all your needs. Philippians 1:6 - being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.
3. Ground Rules – Reviewed by James
 - Please raise your hand to indicate that you would like to speak.
 - Please give your name and state your views on the matter under discussion, including any questions or concerns you may have.
 - In order to allow others ample opportunity to join in the conversation, please keep any subsequent comments by you on the issue/motion succinct and to the point.
 - Please remain quiet when others have the floor so everyone can hear.
 - Please be respectful of those voicing differing opinions.
4. Congregational Input -
 - Kristie - large number of attendees, many visitors. As greeter, assisted in parking traffic. Maybe a parking sign that says the lot is full?
 - Jennifer Davis - liked the silent prayer petitions an Assisting Minister did. Would like to see a big happy baptism card presented to children being baptized.
 - Amy - on Jonah's baptism day, friends and family expressed a positive, welcoming experience, even those who don't normally attend church
 - Eric - spent time in the nursery this past Sunday. He talked to folks at the CDC (Child Development Center) about the nursery position - he found some interest.
 - Jennifer Davis - have we tried Handshake? Jobs get posted to App State, Lees McRae, etc.
 - Matt - is familiar with Handshake. Will meet up with Steve about it.
 - James and Dana Holden - front door should be unlocked in the morning during ingress
5. Approval of June Council Meeting, July Council Meeting, and 2026 Congregational Meeting Minutes and email voting
 - A. Jennifer made a motion to approve the June, July, and 2026 Congregational Meeting minutes. Jonathan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - B. Final report from the nominating committee approved via email.
6. Strategic Visioning – presented by Steve

- A. Review Organizational Chart and Liaison Assignments
- B. Council Goal-Setting Process (refer to Old Business)

7. Policy – James - no discussion/update

8. Monitoring and Oversight

A. Reports:

1) Senior Pastor Report

- a. Down 1 person on average in-person worship compared to last year. The motion passed unanimously. A possible plateau?
- b. ACTION ITEM: Eric made a motion to transfer P. Steve's unused vacation (2 days) to next year. Jennifer seconded the motion. The motion passed; 1 abstention.

2) Campus Ministry Coordinator

3) Music Ministry Report

4) Office Manager Report

5) Facilities Report

6) Treasurer Report

- a. Giving in July was \$21,182; \$8K behind for the month.
- b. YTD - even to last year; same dollar number at this point last year.
- c. Some concern as next year's budget is higher.

B. Old Business

1) Capital Campaign Updates

- a. Gifts and pledges received to date - Latest update is \$295K (from 2 weeks ago)
- b. Thank you notes - P. Steve to activate
- c. Projects' update
 - i. Roof Replacement
 - ii. Councill House Update - Complete
 - iii. Parking Lot Expansion – Complete
 - iv. Grace Place Update - Bid status.
 - Property - What are we realistically willing to spend (top end)? They are looking for a straw vote.
 - 1st bid: \$365,186 (ballpark bid); \$125K was initially planned. Awaiting another bid.
 - Eric - knock it down and start over? He thinks we should finish the Councill House project.
 - Jennifer and Kristie - we should redo the layout.
 - Jonathan - MUSTS are upgrading the electrical and redoing some of the old plumbing. Lead and asbestos are present increasing the cost (there is asbestos tile that can be covered up).

- P. Steve - HVAC needs updated. \$200K is the most we can go and that's stretching it.
 - Lynn - can we get a loan to pay for the upgrade? P. Steve - yes.
 - Eric suggests \$190K [\$125K + \$65K (from other project)]
 - Morgan - sell it? Discussion. The value is great to us due to its location to our church.
 - The straw vote is to spend \$190K - \$200K on this project.
- v. Playground Project - reactivate the planning group in late August/early September. We have \$25K towards the project.
 - vi. Operational Cash Reserve
- 2) Director of Congregational Life – Welcome Matt!
 - a. Looking at family ministry calendar through December
 - b. Adding Youth Gathering info to calendar
 - c. Meeting with the OPUS group this Thursday
 - d. Getting the Young Adults group (Gather) get back on the radar
 - 3) Council Retreat follow-up - P. Steve moved to approve the 3-year strategic goals. Lynn seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
 - 4) Nursery Coordinator Position
 - a. No applications, no interest
 - b. Attendants- difficulty filling these positions as well:
 - i. Consider raising the pay? Would \$20/hr be enough? 2 hours of work. Mike suggested \$25/hr. \$50/day; \$200/month.
 - ii. Eric - can we delay 3 days? To give the person at CDC who's interested more time.

C. New Business

- 1) Facility Requests - Mountain Dev.
 - a. Kristie made a motion to approve the Mountain Dev Facility Use request. Mike seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- 2) Youth College Intern?
 - a. In the last couple of years we've had a youth college intern.
 - b. We pay \$1000/semester; \$2000/year
 - c. Responsibilities included assisting with Children's Church and being the 2nd adult for youth ministry nights
 - d. Funding for the youth college intern would come from unused seminary intern monies. P. Steve made a motion to extend an offer to Bree Phillips for this position. The motion was seconded by Amy. The motion passed unanimously.
- 3) Fixing Stained Glass Windows – Pre-spend 2027 Peeler Money?
 - a. \$7K to fix stained glass window issues.

- b. Peeler money will come in next Spring (March). We want to get the problems fixed before winter.
- c. P. Steve moved to pre-spend 2027 Peeler money to fix the stained glass issues. Mike seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4) Council Self-Evaluation

- a. James - thought we did well. Gave grade of "A-"
- b. Lynn - it was good retreat
- c. Kristie - agreed with above.

5) Preliminary 2027 Council goals - Think about goals in addition to the 3-Year Strategic Goals

6) Officer elections

- a. President - Mike nominated Jennifer. James seconded the nomination. Jennifer agreed to serve.
- b. Vice President -
 - i. Lynn nominated Eric. Jennifer seconded the nomination. Eric is willing.
 - ii. Eric nominated Lynn. Mike seconded the nomination. Lynn declined.
- c. Secretary - James nominated Kristie. Mike seconded the nomination. Kristie is willing.
- d. Treasurer - P. Steve nominated Mike. James seconded the nomination.
- e. Motion made by Mike to elect the above slate. James seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7) Devotion Sign-ups for next year

9. Meeting adjourned with prayer – Morgan @ 7:10PM.

Upcoming Devotion List:

Sept - Mike
Oct - Teresa
Nov - Amy
Dec - Lynn
Jan - James
Feb - Jonathan
Mar - Eric
Apr - Kristie
May - Jennifer
June - TBD
July - TBD
Aug - TBD