

## **Church Council Meeting Minutes**

**Church:** Lutie Watkins Memorial

**Date:** January 12, 2026

**Time:** 6:00pm

**Location:** LWMMC Fellowship Hall

**Recorded by:** Pastor Bryan and Transcribed through Chat GPT.

**Attendance:** Carol Faulkenberry (Chair), Lauren Timms, Blake Schultze, Malinda Hoerster, Rob Wilson, Kelly Johnson, Carol Cunningham, David Griffith, Angela Buttery, Jena Garnett, Todd Keller, Dr. Sky Forrester, Rev. Bryan Rogers.

**Not Present:** Janet Brown (Lay Leader), Dale Steltzer

### **Call to Order/Introductions**

Meeting Was Called to order at 6:00pm by Carol F. The meeting opened with introductions.

### **Approval of Prior Minutes**

The chair asked if members had received minutes by email and requested any corrections.

*Action/Decision:*

No corrections were offered; minutes were approved as read.

### **Welcoming New Members & Brief Council Training**

Pastor Bryan provided orientation and training focused on the purpose and function of Church Council under the Global Methodist Church governance model.

#### ***Key Points:***

- Emphasis on local church governance with less “top-down” managing than prior systems.
- Council functions as an overarching governance board (simplified/single-board model) rather than a collection of many separate committees.
- Ministry is not meant to be micromanaged by Council; Council sets direction, budgets, and empowers ministry teams.
- Pastor’s stated intent: each meeting will begin with 10-15 minutes of spiritual training and prayer to discern God’s leading.
- Reminder: the church belongs to Jesus Christ; Council serves as stewards, not owners.

## **End of the Year (2025) Financial Report**

Council review the end-of year report.

### ***Discussion Highlights:***

- Council reviews prior decision about transferring funds to restricted/building related accounts.
- A prior approved transfer had not been completed do to accounting/logistical complexity. It was noted for follow-up.

### ***Action Item:***

- Janet to verify/complete the previously approved transfer

## **Restricted Funds & Purchases**

### ***John Moran Fund Discussion:***

- Original gift referenced as \$128,000; \$100,000 placed in a CD at Llano National Bank; \$28,000 held aside and used for hymnals and legal-related costs.
- Bible Purchase: Previously discussed and approved, but not yet completed; delay attributed to Janet needing to finalize print/fit considerations.

*Action Item: Pastor Bryan to speak with Janet regarding Bible purchase and next steps.*

## **Connectional Funding**

Pastor Bryan clarified the terminology and calculation of connectional funding.

- Connectional Funding totals 4% of prior-year operating income:
  - 3% to Mid-Texas Conference
  - 1% to the Global Methodist Church
- Conference Rebate Expected (~\$2500 mentioned) with option to receive or direct toward missions.

## **Roof Project Update**

Council reviewed roof situation and insurance proceeds.

### ***Key Points***

- Insurance Check Received: \$208,635
- Roof Work Bid: Approx. \$318,000 (two roofs: Main Building and FLC)

- Plan adjusted to focus on roof replacement only; interior repairs removed to reduce costs (interior work estimated previously at an extra \$100,000)
- One roof lacks vapor barrier; condensation continues to drips/leaks; replacement will include appropriate barrier.
- FLC Gym/building intersection as inadequate gutter system from original build; replacement plan includes correcting drainage/gutter design.
- Roofer believed work could begin quickly and potentially be completed before Easter (subject to approval, weather, & materials)
- Discussion included concerns about piecemeal repair vs full replacement, insurance complications, and future premium benefits.

## **Legal Update**

Pastor Bryan provided an update regarding the Lawsuit.

### *Key Points*

- Rio Texas Conference requested another extension; court indicated this would be the final extension.
- Deadline: February 13
- Pastor shared with council that only a small percentage of cases are accepted by the Supreme Court of Texas; legal team reportedly confidence acceptance is unlikely.
- Council discussed the practical of proceeding with necessary facility work regardless of legal timeline.

## **MOTION: Proceed with Roof Replacement**

*Motion: To move forward with roof replacement/roof work begin using the insurance proceeds as the initial funding.*

*Moved by David Griffith*

*Seconded by Todd Keller*

*Vote: Passed Unanimously*

### ***Related Financial Notes:***

- Council noted the remaining amount beyond insurance would require a funding plan.
- The John Moran CD (~\$100,000 plus interest) was discussed as a likely source to cover the gap if needed.
- Vendor reportedly open to a church-friendly payment approach for remaining balance.

## **Parsonage Update**

Pastor Bryan reported coordinating with Precision Painting for the parsonage.

## **MOTION: Confirm Maintenance Contracts for One Year.**

Council Revisited December tabled discussion regarding ongoing work from:

- Outdoor Maintenance (Dale & Cheryl Steltzer)
- Indoor Custodial/Maintenance (Kelly and Pablo)

*Motion: to confirm continuation of both parties/services for one year, recorded in minutes.*

*Moved by: Rob W.*

*Seconded by: Jena*

*Vote: Approved Unanimously*

## **Charge Conference Announcement**

Pastor announced Connectional/district Charge Conference. January 25 at 4:00pm, Brady Texas.

## **Other Business & Notes**

- Tables discussion from a prior meeting: members recommended leaving it tabled to drop off agenda (not ready; roof first; accessibility concerns raised).
- Lot beside Todd's office / playground use:
  - Dedicated for children's ministry purposes; Laura reportedly obtained enough family permissions/signatures; written documentation not yet confirmed.
- Request made to capture history and documentation formally.
- Alley drainage / water flow issue discussed; possible city agenda item to repair alleyway; roof drainage contributes to nearby property water issues.
- Positive update shared regarding LKC (Lutie's Kids Club) leadership and progress.
- Long-range planning:
  - Suggestion to begin facilities/maintenance triage plan: HVAC age, priorities, replacement schedule, and potential future capital campaign.
  - Building committee referenced as existing; possibility of expanding membership and using it for prioritized planning.