



Church Council Meeting Minutes

Church: Lutie Watkins Memorial

Date: June 8, 2026

Time: 6:00pm

Location: LWMMC Fellowship Hall

Recorded by: Pastor Bryan and Transcribed through Chat GPT.

Attendance:

- Present: Carol Faulkenberry (Chair), Lauren Timms, Malinda Hoerster, Carol Cunningham, David Griffith, Angela Buttery, Jena Garnett, Rev. Bryan Rogers, Janet Brown (Lay Leader), Dale Steltzer, Blake Schultze, Todd Keller, Rob Wilson.
- Not Present: Dr. Sky Forrister, Kelly Johnson

Call to Order

Meeting Was Called to order at 6:00 PM By the Chair.

Opening Prayer

Rev. Bryan Rogers Opened the Meeting with Prayer.

Approval of Prior Minutes

- Spelling Error: "Tara Pope" (not Pop)
- Spelling Error: "Lutie's"

Minutes approved by acclamation with noted clerical corrections.

Financial Report

Pastor Bryan reported a discovery that his (*Pastor*) portion of the pension has not been withheld for the past six years due to a payroll set up oversight during the 2020 staff transition. The church has been covering both the church share and the pastor share, a total overpayment of approximately \$11,000 over the six years.

- The error was discovered during the internal audit and was addressed in April's payroll system.

- Tax impact is personal to Pastor Bryan (increased reportable income); no direct tax liability to the church.
- Three correction options discussed: (1) full retroactive correction 0- not recommended do to complexity; (2) correct 2026 only by increasing withholding; (3) correct going forward only.
- Council discussion and motion
 - *Motion: (Todd K., Second, Lauren T.) - Option 3: Correct going forward only. Motion Carried unanimously.*

John Moran Fund / Operating Revenue Display Issue

Todd K. Flagged that the \$111,000 John Moran CD transfer is currently appearing as operating revenue, which inflates the apparent unrestricted fund balance. The actual unrestricted/available funds are approximately \$33,000, not \$133,000.

- The funds are correctly in the checking account and have been applied to the roof fund deficit, but the accounting classification needs to be corrected.
- April and Bryan will work to reclassify the entry properly.
- Total Roof Cost was approximately \$312,000 - \$318,000; insurance paid approximately \$280,000; Remaining balance is in the roof fund.

Action Item: April & Pastor Bryan to work on ICON to correct the accounting display.

Medicare / Social Security Payable Fluctuations

Noted that Medicare Payable and Social Security Payable line items fluctuate between positive and negative month to month. These appear to be payment timing issues rather than errors.

Facilities Report

Roof/Water Damage - Activity Center

- Significant demo work has been completed in the women's restroom area; insulation holding water was removed above the wall cavity.
- Adam Timms assisted by accessing ceiling space to locate additional leak points near the classroom area.
- Roofing contractor Jason Turner confirmed via email this morning: work begins Thursday on the valley and activity center areas; estimated 3-04 days. Gutter installation to follow.

- Ladies Restroom remains closed; mens' room is operating as family restroom. Congregation asked to knock before entering.
- VBS/Event contingency. Miranda Rogers confirmed the children's ministry has contingency plans if the restroom is unavailable. Council to explore temporary handwashing station options.

Drainage/Dry Creek Bed

- One bid received from Tomlinson (referred by congregation member): \$2,000 to remove entire dry creek bed, relocate rocks, regard for proper drainage toward Main Street, add dirt around oak tree, and cut building section to improve draining. Bid includes all labor and removal.
- Council discussed using volunteer labor to salvage preferred rocks for repurposing in flower beds prior to the contractors' work.
- Recommendation: downspouts from new gutters should NOT be connected to the underground drain (which failed); run to grade instead.
- Work Day Coordination Needed.
 - *Motion: (David G.; Second: Confirmed), Vote: All In Favor. Motion Carried*

Legal Report

No updates at this time.

Old Business

Ministry Planning/Long Range Planning Team

Confirmed Members to Date: Laura Almost, Brian Miiller, Cheyenne Schultze, Miranda Rogers, Youth Director.

Separately, Pastoral Care team has been formed and will hold first meeting June 17.

Bus/Van Repairs and Readiness

- Van was used for Kid's Camp; cleaning planned this week; ready for youth camp in two weeks.
- Bus AC evaluated by Ford Dealer, no leaks found. Heat issues attributable to bus design and summer conditions. Operator note: correct knob direction matters for AC vs. Heat.
- Van/Bus usage policy still in progress - will be presented at the July Meeting. Will include checkout form, calendar, mileage/damage reporting, gas policy, and key policy.

Building Security & Key Policy

Key policy presented and approved. Key numbering system in place. Keys are \$25/key. Annual key audit established. Ben Watson managing the numbering stamps.

- *Motion: (Janet B. Second, Lauren T.) All in favor. Motion Carried.*

100 - Year Rededication Celebration

- Date Confirmed: November 15, 2026
- Bishop Gregory is no longer available (on Sabbatical). Pastor Bryan Will Contract another Representative
- Planning Committee (Carol F. & Carol C.) is researching how other area churches have handled centennial celebration.
- Request for congregation” Photos of confirmations, baptisms, and weddings. Will be publicized in newsletter.
- Cassette tape archive of church history needs to be digitized, volunteers needed.

New Business

Associate Pastor of Youth & Family Ministries - Congregational Engagement

Pastor Bryan presented a simplified 5-Year Average budget analysis (Prepared with AI assistance) showing that hiring an Associate Pastor at an estimated total cost of \$80,000 - \$86,000 (Salary + benefits) is potentially feasible, with a projected net of approximately \$8,200, given reallocation of budget line items and elimination of Kemp’s current \$54,000 cost.

- Key cost driver: ordained pastor requires GMC conference health insurance (at minimum, self-only coverage) as part of the appointment packages - unlike lay staff.
- Benefits allocation of ~\$20,000 is a placeholder; exact insurance cost for self-only coverage to be confirmed.
- Council affirmed interest in the proposal and desire for congregational buy-in before a formal vote.
- Discussion: A formal Charge/Church Conference requires 10 days notice and presiding elder princes. Council agreed to begin with an informal congregational information meeting open to all members.
- Pastor Bryan to host information meeting before July 4 if possible; present financial picture, vision, and invite questions. If significant disagreement arise, a formal church conference can be called.
- Pastor Bryan to confirm with District Superintendent Rev. Jill Jackson-Sears whether a Charge Conference is required for the action order GMC Polity.

- Candidates: Pastor Bryan has informal conversations in progress with two potential lay youth director candidates and one deacon candidate. All have expressed interest pending direction.
- Target start date for new hire: August 1 or September 1, 2026. Budget impact primarily falls in 2027.

Pastoral Review

(Carried from May) Annual pastoral review is overdue from 2025. SPRC Subcommittee to schedule and conduct. Janet to obtain review form.

Investment/Endowment Advisor

Conversation about the \$59,000 endowment and the possibility of working with a financial advisor. Carol F. Has reached out to Bryce Milliorn who expressed willingness to present options other the council.

- Endowment principle is currently held in Texas Methodist Foundation; only interest is accessible. Question remains whether it may be moved or added to under Church Governance.
- Goal: Establish an investment policy; explore whether dividends can be reinvested to grow the corpus; consider options for restricted funds that may be under-utilized.
- Bryce Milliorn to be invited to the July meeting to Present.

Church Security Protocol

Council discussed the need for formal security protocol following incited during sunder worship where medical situation caused confusion and no clear communication signal was available to pastor.

- At minimum: establish simple hand signals or communication protocol between usher/security volunteers and the pastor during service.
- Ron Cunningham and Mike Belonoski identified as strong candidates to lead protocol development.
- Blake S. To help initiate the process.
- Insurance liability review needed before formalizing an armed secret policy; consult church insurer.

Announcements

- Todd Keller announced his resignation from he Church Council, effective this meeting. Council expressed appreciation for years of service, particularly his leadership of the audit process and SPRC.

Meeting Adjourned. Next Meeting, July 14, 2026 PM.