



# Church Council Meeting Minutes

## July 20, 2026

**Church:** Lutie Watkins Memorial

**Date:** July 20, 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, Janet Brown (Lay Leader), Dale Steltzer, Rob Wilson.
- Not Present: Rev. Bryan Rogers,

### Call to Order

Meeting Was Called to order at 6:01 PM By the Chair.

### Opening Prayer

Rev. Bryan Rogers Opened the Meeting with Prayer.

### Approval of Prior Minutes

- Laura Almond name was corrected.
- Clarified that names previously submitted for long-range planning were suggestions given to Pastor Bryan, not confirmed committee appointments
- Motion to approve minutes with corrections: David moved. Janet Seconded. Motion Carried.

### Financial Report

- Reviewed the operating fund and unrestricted fund reports; prior corrections noted and resolved, including a pension reporting issue.
- Discussion of discrepancy on the annual budget report (page 9) showing \$0 instead of \$11,000 for the pastor's GMC pension line. The error was traced to the annual budget

figure not being applied when the report was created; correction was made this week and will be noted in next month's report.

- Clarified that the church pays the full monthly pension amount up front, and the pastor's portion (Currently \$318/month) is reimbursed from Pastors paycheck at month-end, explaining the appearance of a larger year-to-date number.

### **Facilities Update**

- Roof: contractor was expected on site to provide a finalized repair plan. Known leaks remain in the women's restroom, the gym (multiple spots), and a back class room. The bell tower leak was also reported and contractor has been made aware.
- Kitchen and bathroom insulation removed due to water damage will be replaced (spray foam) once the roofing contractor confirms all issues are resolved.
- Grinder Pump: contractor needed two extra days due to an electrical issue requiring an electrician; a contingency plan moved kids to rooms upstairs during the work. Lingering odor addressed with activated charcoal bags.
- Drainage/Dry Creek Bed: preliminary plan shared with the council. Discussion of organizing a volunteer work day (proposed for August, before School Stars, tentatively weekday mornings 8:00 - 10:30am) to help clear and repurpose rocks. Rock may be repurposed for the prayer garden.
- Playground Fencing/Privacy screening is nearly complete.
- Water bubbler outage was traced to a bad outlet, not the unit itself; temporary fix applied.
- Family Life Center: exterior landscaping/bushes on hold until the roof project is complete.

### **Legal Report**

- A court date (Nov. 2-3 still being confirmed by Pastor Bryan; council discussed keeping the congregation updated via text and possibly opening the sanctuary for prayer during the proceedings, rather than council members attending in person.

### **Ministry Planning Team**

- Formerly called the "long-range planning" group, renamed to ministry planning team. Full roster of committed members has not yet been circulated.
- Building and security protocol update: Blake and Pastor Bryan are working on a van policy. Carl steward assisted with VBS security no incidents reported.

### **100-Year Rededication Celebration**

- Limited progress reported; research ongoing. Enthusiasm noted as somewhat dampened by an unrelated denominational legal matter.

### **Committee Assignments**

- Rob Wilson to move from Finance Committed to SPRC; Lauren Timms to move to Finance.
- Motion: David moved, Janet Seconded. Motion Carried.
- Rob Wilson will lead the pastor's annual review this fall.
- Todd's council seat (resigned) will remain upon until new members are added in January, constant with past practice.

### **Endowment/Investment Discussion**

- Bryce Milliorn (a member who grew up in the church and manages investments for a larger sister congregation) has agreed to speak at the August Meeting at 5:30pm, prior to the regular meeting, to advise on growing church savings.
- Council does not currently have full documentations on restrictions governing use of the existing endowment. Historical Church records (referenced in a written church history) may contain relevant details on donor stipulations. Action: Locate and review these records before the August Meeting.
- Discussed whether the memorial fund could potentially be combined with or grown alongside the endowment.

### **Associate Pastor/Youth Director Discussion**

- A letter From David Gilliland was read aloud, advocating strongly for pursuing an appointed clergy associate pastor rather than lay youth director, citing around-the-clock demands on Pastor Bryan and the potential benefit of shared pastoral care for the congregation and the community.
- Concerns raised about cost: an appointed clergy position could add roughly \$35k - \$40k/ year in salary and benefits, which combined with the payroll could push the payroll percentage of the budget to the mid-60's, straining funds needed for facilities and other ministries.
- Discussion of a third, previously undiscussed option: hiring a lay person who could also oversee children's ministry, broadening the role beyond youth alone.

- General agreement that whomever is hired - lay or clergy - would also take on an oversight role of Miranda and the Children's ministry to relieve Pastor Bryan of that responsibility.
- Compensation questions Raised: how housing allowance, insurance, and salary might be structured differently depending on candidates circumstances.
- No formal decision or vote was made. General leaning discussed toward advertising the opening broadly, selecting the best-fit candidate, per Gilliland's letter, once budget review is complete.
- Consensus was that a dedicated budget workshop is needed to fully understand current finances before committing to a compensation range or formal posting.

### **Other Business**

- David shared he felt the council lacked a full, ongoing picture of church finances given recent unplanned expenses. Requested more proactive, forward-looking budget planning rather than reactive decision-making.
- General agreement to considering organizing a budget workshop.

### **Adjournment**