



Church Council Meeting Minutes

Church: Lutie Watkins Memorial

Date: May 18. 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, Dr. Sky Forrester, Todd Keller, Kelly Johnson, Rob Wilson.
- Attending Non-Council Members: David Gilliland, Kara Gilliland, Ben Watson, Dr. Louise Forrester, Sarah Harris, Miranda Rogers, Diane Willmann, Mary Ellen Halamicek, Cheyenne Schultze,

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

Motion to approve minutes with Addendum of Previous Email Vote (Sky Moved, Blake Seconded).
Motion Carried.

Financial Report

Summary of Accounts (Presented By Todd K.)

- Total Bank Balance April: \$356,474 Across all funds.
- Total Restricted Funds: \$292,748.67
- Total Liabilities: \$29,432.50
- Unrestricted / Available for operations (payroll, utilities, etc), \$34,292.83
- John Moran: ~\$109,000
- Endowment principal untouchable per Texas Methodist Foundation; only interest is accessible.

- Some Funds will need to be corrected:

Action Item: Pastor Bryan to Work with April on correcting Accounts.

- Pastor UMPIP
- Medicate Payable
- Soc. Sec. Payable

Policy Discussion

- Best practices discussed to use budget line items before drawing on restricted funds. This preserves unrestricted cash for payroll/operations.
- Server restricted funds may be eligible for consolidation or closure - to be reviewed during continual audit process.

Audit Update

- Internal Audit Status (Todd, Rob, Kelly, Angela)
 - Comments were made about this being an “internal audit” not a formal external audit. The Audit Subcommittee has been reviewing specific areas designated funds.
 - Currently Findings: Endowment balance appears corded; TMF interest account is ~\$65.00 off.
 - Liabilities section shows some negative balances, these are journal clean up items for April (bookkeeper) to Resolve.
 - Recommendation: Continue audit through the year; produce a final written report stating what was reviewed and findings.
- External Audit Discussion
 - LKC grand applications may require an independent audit. Estimated Cost: \$5,000 - \$13,000.
 - Because LKC Finances are intertwined with the church, and auditor would likely need to audit the whole entity.
 - Annual Conference report requires confirmation of audit completion, an internal audit report satisfies this requirement.
 - No decision was made on a formal audit as conversations are being had with the grant organization to clarify needs.

Facilities Report

- Roof/Water Damage - Family Life Center
 - A Water leak was discovered in the women’s restroom wall during garage sale - water running inside the wall from sagging insulation.
 - Rhea’s Plumbing investigated; found no damage resulting from roof project.
 - Contractor Brady Smith is available and willing to help begin demo. Estimate of Cost: \$1,040 for removal. Noted that costs would increase once walls are opened.

- **Council Approved an urgent motion to precede immediately with demo.**
 - **Motion: Janet | Second: Sky | Vote: Unanimous. Motion Passed.**
- Metal studs confirmed (not wood; reduces mold risk from water saturation).
- Roofing company has not yet completed their scope of work (down spouts); they will need to return to confirm all issues are resolved.
- Gutters and drainage: Downspouts are clogged - need attention. Trench was dug near the building to approve draining by David Gr.
- Gutter maintenance program available through the roofing company - to be discussed once current work is complete.
- Water found in Koinonia Classroom, needs further investigation to determine if connected to the insulation/roof issue.
- LKC Toddler Play Yard/HVAC Drainage
 - Area behind the building near HVAC needs some manual labor for drainage. No gutters currently on the back of the building.

Legal Update

- The Rio Texas Conference has submitted their final rebuttal petition to the court.
- Our team has already submitted a response; no further action is required.
- Attorney's Assessment: the Church remains in strong legal position. The conference is attempting to overturn established state law via an ecclesiastical doctrine exclusion argument.
- Expected timeline for court decisions: mid-to-late summer 2026, possibly sooner.

Old Business

- Long Range Planning Committee - In progress. Hope to have team by end of summer.
- Bus/Van Repairs - Attempt made to schedule with Ford Dealership in Marble Falls
- Van Usage Policy - Formal Policy needed. In progress.
- Building Security/Key Policy
 - Clarification 16-key vote was misunderstood. The intent should be 16 keys per building (32 total).
 - Proposed policy: Keys issued with \$25 deposit; deposit returned when key is returned; lost key = forfeited deposit + \$25 for replacement.
 - Annual Key Audit
 - Keys numbered for tracking purposes
 - Council approved (by consensus) proceeding with ordering the additional keys at \$25/key added to the exiting key bid.
- Messaging & Communication - New texting system in use. Very popular. Monthly subscription with credit limit. Future capabilities: text-to-give, prayer requests, QR codes.
- 100-Year Rededication Celebration

- Date confirmed: November 15, 2026 (Bishop Gregory in attendance)
- Combined single service followed by rededication ceremony, then meal.
- Carol F. & Carol C. Leading the planning committee. Louise and others have volunteered to help.
- Council Members wishing to join the planning committee should contact Carol F.

New Business

- Youth Director Transition. Kemp has announced he is returning to school district. Effective start is August. School paycheck does not begin until September. Would like to help support Kemp through the end of the Summer and until he is able to be paid by the district. His calling and growth were affirmed by Pastor, and the Council and Pastor Bryan expressed gratitude for his three year tenure. Kemp will remain a member of the congregation and the community.
- Proposal: Associate Pastor of Youth and Family Ministries
 - Title: Associate Pastor of Youth and Family Ministries
 - Proposal to be an ordained position (Deacon/Elder) - theological trained, able to perform communion, provide pastoral care, and fill in for senior pastor as needed.
 - This is not Kemp's role being backfilled - it's a new intentional position reflecting the church's growth.
 - Estimate total cost to Church \$80,000 - \$86,000 (Salary and benefits)
 - Kemp's current total cost \$54,000+; removing that line partially offsets the cost.
 - No vote taken. Council was asked to review the job description in packet, pray over proposal. Come prepared to discuss further at the next meeting.
 - Housing in Llano identified as a significant logistical challenge for attracting candidates. SPRC (Todd as Chair) will coordinate the hiring process once a directions confirmed.
- Pastoral Review
 - A formal annual pastoral review is required by the Book of Doctrines and Disciples and was not conducted in 2025.
 - Pastor Bryan formally requested that one be scheduled.
 - Todd (SPRC chair) will form a small review committee of Todd, Janet B. David G. Rob W.
 - Janet will obtain the review form and send it to Todd, who will schedule the review.
- Global Methodist Church - Connectional Update
 - Pastor Bryan serves as the Presiding Elder over 7 additional churches (Mason, Fredericksburg, Brady, San Saba, Comanche, Goldthwaite, & Art).
He is currently in the process of appointing a pastor at Goldthwaite, and another church opening is expected by year end.
 - The role of PE is not compensated by the church (travel stipend only through conference funds).
 - Pastor Bryan emphasized that his outside roles represent the church in the broader connection, not a distraction from it.

- He acknowledged community feedback about pastoral visibility and committed to more intentional visitation and community presence. Church growth update: services regularly in the 100's 132 new people in the Church since Pastor Bryan arrived (Per Janet B.); consistent year-over-year growth for 6 years.
- Children's Ministry Report: Miranda R. Presented on behalf of the Children's Ministry Planning Team. This was an information report only - no decisions have been made.
 - Team Members Recognized: Miranda (Director of Children's Ministry), Bobby Lou Gray-Fox, Cheyenne Chintz, Casey Walmsley, Tara Pop, Lauren Timms (Council Rep), Dianne Willmann.
 - Desire to draft mission statement: *"To bring children closer to Christ through biblical formation, relational discipleship, and intergenerational community in a way that is sustainable for our families and our volunteers."*
 - Key Findings

Issue 1 — Behavior & Discipline:

- Large-group settings (multiple grade levels combined) are increasingly difficult to manage, even for experienced volunteers.
- Insufficient adult-to-child ratios amplify single disruptions.
- The team has identified specific behavior patterns that needed earlier intervention and is committed to addressing them proactively.
- A clear written discipline policy (more detailed than the current one) is being drafted.

Issue 2 — Volunteers:

- Current program requires 50 volunteer spots per week.
- 40 of 50 volunteers are current parents or grandparents; only 10 come from outside that circle.
- Substitute pool: 8–10 people (mostly parents/grandparents; majority limited to table parent roles).
- Compliance requirements (background checks, training) have caused some volunteers to step back.
- Staffing the 3:30–5:00 PM window is the most difficult due to work schedules.
- Required ratio: 1 adult per 8 children, minimum 2 unrelated adults per group regardless of size.

Issue 3 — Schedule:

- Current program runs approximately 3 hours (school pickup to dismissal).
- Most comparable church programs run approximately 90 minutes.
- Team is exploring ending the spring semester in late March (vs. late April) to reduce volunteer fatigue, with family-oriented programming offered through April.
- Considering a shorter daily block to reduce weekly burnout.
- Gonzalez UMC model highlighted: 100+ enrolled, ~90 weekly attendees, runs on 25 volunteers — a shorter, structured model that is working.

Attendance Data

- Started the year with 70 enrolled children.
- Lost 14 children during the year: 4 due to spring sports conflicts, 1 moved away, 2 transferred to their home church, 6 dropped for fit/fatigue reasons (4 of those were kindergartners/1st graders).
- Retained 56 children who attended consistently unless ill or had a rare conflict.
- Conclusion: child attendance is not the primary issue — volunteer fatigue is.
- Of 70 children: 22 were from other churches or had no home church; 48 identified Ludie Watkins as their church.
- Of those 48, only 15–20 are regular Sunday attenders — meaning the Wednesday program is the primary or only faith formation point for many children.

Council's Role

- No Action Requested at this time.
- Team asked for council's prayer, trust in the process, and support.
- Discussion was had about the responsibility of the council and making a decision about many material changes and whether or not they had authority to do so. It was noted by Pastor Bryan, that none of the other ministries in the church have the same accountability to the Council. Programming structure decisions remain with the ministry team and staff.

Meeting was Adjourned 8:08pm

Next meeting will be June 8, 2026 @ 6:00pm