



Church Council Meeting Minutes

August 10, 2026

Church: Lutie Watkins Memorial

Date: August 10, 2026

Time: 5:30PM

Location: LWMMC Fellowship Hall

Recorded by: Pastor Bryan and Transcribed through Claude AI

Attendance:

- Present: Rev. Bryan Rogers (Pastor), Carol Faulkenberry (Chair), Lauren Timms, Malinda Hoerster, Carol Cunningham, David Griffith, Jena Garnett, Janet Brown (Lay Leader), Dale Steltzer, Rob Wilson, Dr. Sky Forrester, Blake Schultze
- Not Present: Angela Buttery
- Guest: Ben Watson

Guest Presentation - Bryce Milliorn

Mr. Bryce Milliorn presented investment options of the church's endowment funds, currently held largely underplayed with the Texas methodist Foundation (approx. \$59,000 - \$60,000), dating to a 1991 endowment committee that was later discontinued.

Restricted Gifts Background

- George Watkins gift #1 — \$25,000 designated for the building; only interest/dividends may be used, per available documentation.
- George Watkins gift #2 — \$10,000 endowment, to be held in perpetuity; his letter indicates interest may be used at the church's discretion, though a referenced certificate/letter of trust with more specific terms has not yet been located.
- Mary Phema Moore endowment — per her will, interest is designated for building upkeep, or otherwise "whatever the trustees best feel it should go to."
- Bryan and Bryce have researched the original gift documentation but have not yet located the complete George Watkins trust letter.

Investment Options Presented (Least-to-Most Risk)

- FDIC-insured Certificates of Deposit (approx. 4.1–4.2% depending on term) — principal protected, minimal flexibility.
- Money Market Fund (Federated Prime Cash Obligations) — approx. 3.67% yield, high liquidity, not FDIC-insured but very low risk; 0.20% internal cost.
- Ultra-Short Bond Fund — approx. 4.24% yield, 0.22% internal cost, some interest-rate sensitivity but low volatility given short duration.
- Balanced Fund / ETF (stocks and bonds, ~50/50 to 60/40 mix) — long-term average returns have significantly outpaced CDs and inflation historically, with moderate volatility (one down year of roughly –25% in the fund's history); recommended as the most aggressive option Edward Jones offers most churches.
- Bryce recommended the Council not exceed the risk level of a balanced fund for church endowment assets, and emphasized that only interest/gains — never the principal ("corpus") — would be used or reinvested.

Discussion

- Some churches (e.g., in San Angelo) have structured their endowments as a separate 501(c)(3), which proved advantageous during the denominational disaffiliation process; Council members are considering this structure, though no decision has been made.
- Council discussed the possibility of a church-based, share-secured lending feature (members could "deposit" funds the church could use, with interest benefiting the church, and the depositor's principal returned on notice) — Bryce will research whether this is feasible for a 501(c)(3).
- General agreement that a dedicated Endowment Committee, separate from day-to-day Council operations but reporting back to Council, should be formed to set investment policy and meet periodically (e.g., quarterly) with Bryce/Edward Jones.
- No investment decision was made at this meeting. Given pending denominational litigation, Bryan and Bryce agreed not to make any public or structural changes at this time; a full "think tank" planning session is targeted for this fall.

Decision needed from Council (not necessarily at the next meeting): whether to form an Endowment Committee, and if so, its membership, terms, and reporting relationship to Council. Bryan will bring this back to the September meeting.

Council thanked Bryce for traveling from College Station to present.

Regular Meeting - 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 - Minutes were reviewed. One correction as noted for the record; Blake S. Was not present at previous meeting, but was marked as having been there.

Motion with Corrections: David G.

Second: Rob W.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Financial Report

- Unrestricted Operating Fund balance as of 7/31: \$21,169 (per page 8).
- Average Sunday operating-fund balance tracked throughout the year: \$43,535.
- The Epiphany Fund (\$318, an outside/donated-event account, not church operating funds) was directed toward LKC's playground as a community outreach gift, per prior direction from Angela (fund custodian).
- No further questions or discussion on the financial report.

Facilities Update

- Wet insulation removed and new insulation blown in; gutters repaired/cleaned; downspout splash pads to be added.
- Missing gutter section on the north end of the building has been installed.
- Roof: no active leaks. What appeared to be a leak was condensation; this was confirmed during a recent heavy rain when the sanctuary and ladies' restroom floor remained dry.
- Drainage tubing at the back of the property will be cut off/removed.
- Restroom paint/lighting: pattern will remain consistent with existing design; a burned-out bulb accounts for perceived color/lighting differences.
- Kitchen/office area: fire-rated 5/8" sheetrock has been installed per code.
- Volunteer Work Days confirmed for Saturday, September 12 and Saturday, September 19 (morning hours only). April will place these on the calendar and prepare the announcement.
- General consensus: strong progress; Council thanked David and Ben for their work.

Legal Report

- Update shared regarding the pending disaffiliation-related legal matter; oral arguments are expected in Austin, with a ruling anticipated in the March–April 2027 window (possibly as early as spring break).
- A season of special prayer will be held this fall, including a call to prayer around the Global Methodist Church General Conference (late August/early September); the sanctuary will be opened for prayer on Sunday, November 3.
- Bryan will be traveling to South Africa for General Conference.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Youth & Family Ministries Director Search

- Job description has been posted through Truett and Asbury seminaries, the Texas Conference, the Global Methodist Church website, and Revive's Doulos/Lead Team network; open to both lay and clergy candidates.
- Zero formal applications received to date; several informal conversations are underway.
- Kemp has graciously agreed to help cover Wednesday nights in the interim; his final pay under his prior arrangement will be issued at the end of August. Council will determine appropriate compensation (hourly or contract) for his continued interim help with Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings.
- Council affirmed continuing the search until the right candidate is found rather than rushing a hire.

2. Ministry Planning Team

- First meeting has not yet occurred due to competing priorities (budget process); group remains active and will convene when scheduling allows.

3. Bus/Van Policy (Draft)

- Initial draft policy distributed covering approved-driver list/insurance requirements, checkout procedures, mileage and fuel responsibilities, cleaning, and church-business-only use.
- Blake, Skye, and Dale/Rob volunteered to review the draft and send Bryan suggested edits.
- Longer-term idea raised (not for immediate action): purchase a second van and retire the church bus, which is aging and requires frequent repair.
- This policy is intended as a template for future, consistent behavioral/use policies across ministries.

4. Facility Use Policy

- Existing facility-use policy was successfully applied after an outside group left the building in poor condition (lights left on, trash not disposed of); the group was contacted directly and has since re-booked.
- Discussion noted the importance of keeping the church calendar current so staff can verify authorized use of the building and parking lot.

5. 100-Year Rededication Celebration

- Bryan has invited Will Gregory — son of Bishop Leah Hidde-Gregory and a leader in Revive's new "Circuit Riders" young-adult preaching initiative — to preach as part of the celebration; he is seeking approval from his current church (First Irving) to be released that Sunday.
- Bryan plans a joint/back-and-forth preaching format with Will rather than a standard guest sermon.
- Carol and Bryan will meet to plan a visit and finalize details.

6. Church History Book Reprint

- Original 150th-anniversary history book (published 2009 by Celita Liefeste) is being reordered in softcover to mark the 100-year sanctuary celebration.
- Pricing: \$68.60/copy softcover, \$85.60/copy hardcover; 20% discount for orders of 10–49; 25% discount for orders of 50 or more.
- Council leaned toward softcover; quantity (near the 50-copy discount threshold) to be finalized by Bryan in consultation with Celita and Carol.
- Related: research into original church records (including endowment documentation) is ongoing; the congregation is also being asked to help locate a historic red-and-white quilt top for possible framing and permanent display.

7. Pastoral Review

- Reassigned to Rob to chair, with Janet, David Griffith, and Lauren serving on the review committee, representing Lay Leader, Finance, Trustees, and SPRC.
- Committee will meet with Bryan individually and as a group, then report back to Council.
- Due date: by the October meeting.

8. Council Member Terms

- Angela's term end-date was corrected on the roster to December 2027 (not 2026), per her request.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Budget Workshop

- Lauren (Finance) and Bryan have formed a budget workshop team — Carol C., Janet B., Todd Humphreys, and Travis Allen — including congregation members with business backgrounds who are not necessarily on Council, per Angela's earlier suggestion.
- The team will meet this Sunday after lunch to begin work on the FY27 budget, including compensation planning for the Youth & Family Ministries Director role.
- A Sunday school class has requested consideration of a future revival event; Council was asked to keep this in mind, including possible budget provision, for future planning.

2. Cleaning Contract — Duties & Performance

- Discussion was held regarding our current custodial contract.

3. Worship Coverage — Late August / Early September

- Rob (Morgan) will lead a "concert of worship" service on the last Sunday of August while Bryan is in South Africa for General Conference, including a time of prayer for General Conference.
- Rev. BJ Rogers will preach on the first Sunday of September.

4. Announcements

- Volunteer Work Days: Saturday, September 12 and Saturday, September 19 (mornings).
- Prayer emphasis around General Conference, late August–early September; sanctuary open for prayer Sunday, November 3, coinciding with anticipated legal oral arguments in Austin.
- Request submitted for a running calendar/list of upcoming church events (funerals, etc.) to be shared with Council members.

5. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m. (1925).