Lutie Watkins Memorial Methodist Church

GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH · LLANO, TEXAS

CHURCH COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

DATE	LOCATION	STATUS
Monday, November 16, 2026	LWMMC Fellowship Hall	Draft, pending approval

PRESENT Carol Faulkenberry (Chair), Lauren Timms, Sky Forrister, Kelly Jones, David Griffith, Carol Cunningham, Angela Buttery, Dale Stelzer, Blake Schultze, Rev.Bryan Rogers (Senior Pastor)

GUESTS Ben Watson, Rev. B.J. Rogers

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

1 Prayer and Devotion

Opening prayer and Devotion *Pastor Bryan*

2 Teaching

Discussion: Autopsy of a Deceased Church (Thom Rainer) *Pastor Bryan*

Members completed a self-assessment of the warning signs described in Thom Rainer's book. Pastor Bryan will keep copies on file so the council can revisit them later. Discussion points:

-Members found the book sobering and in places oversimplified, but useful for asking hard questions honestly before they become harder to answer.

-Carol reflected on past decisions made in faith, including Lutie's Kids Club and the purchase of the Waldrop property.

Lauren identified warning sign #4, "the budget has moved inward," as one the church should watch.

-Pastor Bryan stressed that Lutie Watkins is not a dying church. The aim is to diagnose issues early. The stewardship team will direct funds intentionally to ministry instead of letting them sit.

-Fund balances as of the meeting date: $45,205 unrestricted and $286,398 restricted. Last year's operating budget was about $500,000, and total income and expenses were about $980,000.

-"Money follows ministry": people give when they understand and believe in a clear purpose.

Going forward: Pastor Bryan asked the council to pray for vision and wisdom. Starting in the new year, the council will work each month on defining the church's identity. Members are encouraged to ask people in the community what they know about Lutie's Place and the Methodist church. The follow-up book, Anatomy of a Revived Church, is optional reading for a future meeting.

Llano Hope Initiative *Rev. BJ Rogers*

Guest Presentation: Llano Hope Initiative (BJ)

BJ has served for five years with Partners in Hope Texas, after 20 years as a pastor and 17 years with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. He is now Executive Director of the Llano Hope Initiative, an

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expanded vision of Hope House developed with Rob and Dina Wilson.
Focus: relational poverty, meaning a lack of healthy, dependable relationships. It can affect anyone, whatever their finances or circumstances.
Pathway: Isolation Relationship Belonging Stability Flourishing. The key on the church's part is intentionality.
Approach: "Good Neighbors" who build consistent relationships, community work days that open doors to relationship, regular check-ins, help navigating existing community resources, and training to equip congregations.
The initiative launches in January 2027. It is not competing with any church or organization and is not asking the church for money. BJ asked for prayer and for volunteers to join work days, including people who just want to come and meet neighbors.
Recommended reading by Matt Peacock: Unexpected Connections and The Crisis of Relational Poverty.
Matt Peacock will be in Llano on December

3 Approval of Minutes

Approve minutes of the October 19 meeting *Carol Faulkenberry (Chair)*
Correction: Kelly Johnson,

> **MOTION**
> As Presented
> Moved by Acclamation · Seconded by Acclamation **Approved by consensus**

4 Reports

Finance Report
-The Stewardship Committee meets Wednesday, November 18 to finalize the 2027 budget. A proposed budget is expected at the December meeting.
-A journal entry will move expenses between Building Improvements and Building Maintenance & Repairs. All building checks had been coded to one line, which is why it showed about 160% of budget. Building fund money will also help cover the electrical work (Common Ground).
-The bus line is over budget (about 480%) because of unexpected repairs, including a broken window. The parsonage line reflects painting done this year.
-The council agreed to keep the adopted budget as the baseline and let the percentages show actual spending, so the numbers can guide next year's planning.
-Starting in 2027, the church will move to QuickBooks and reduce funds from 48 to about 24–27. The operating budget will cover known recurring costs. Monthly income above expenses will be divided by percentage into restricted ministry funds, and those percentages can be adjusted when a ministry has a specific need.
-The many restricted funds were a leftover from UMC-era practices, and simplifying them will give the church more flexibility.
LKC Playground: Angela reported that LKC did not receive the year-end matching grant. The grantor had record applications and added food scarcity as a new focus area. They encouraged LKC to show more

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fundraising of its own. The relationship remains positive. The total project cost, including resurfacing and equipment, is about $90,000, and LKC needs separate play areas. The council's earlier discussion of a capital campaign, possibly for a purpose-built building, still stands.

Facilities Report *David Griffith*

-The window in the Family Life Center has been repaired.
-The water fountains have been repaired. A cover is being ordered for the lift, which had rusted through after a long-standing leak.
-The parking lot lights and the Family Life Center lights have been replaced.
-Storeroom roof leak: Carol and David contacted Imperium (roofing contractor), and they will address it.
-A recent HVAC outage was traced to a blown city transformer, not the church's equipment.
-A kitchen range is not working properly. Brady is getting a quote to repair it. The broiler on one Family Life Center range is not a priority because it is rarely used.
-Water pooling around the oak tree will be corrected shortly.

-The roofing contractor plans to seal the storeroom leak with water-resistant foam once crews are available.
Thanks were given to David G. and to Dale and Cheryl Steltzer for cleanup work around the grounds (drop-in / drainage area).
- Brady Smith has officially been hired as Facilities Coordinator for 10 hours a week at $45 an hour. He is paid weekly for now and will move to a monthly contract like other staff in January. His contract is ready for signature.
-Pink Sheet process: Maintenance needs should be reported on a Pink Sheet. Brady will prioritize and complete them. This keeps staff who are also members from being stopped with maintenance issues on Sunday mornings.
-Kitchen and cleaning issues can be written on the kitchen whiteboard and will be erased when they are done.

Legal Update *Pastor Bryan*

- A Washington, D.C. attorney (Sean N___) filed an amicus brief with the Texas Supreme Court arguing that the court has jurisdiction over pension matters. Church counsel (Kurt and Jamie) are reviewing options, including a motion to strike the brief as untimely.
-A similar case involving about 70 churches in West Virginia and South Carolina, also neutral-principles states, was dismissed.
-The church is hoping for a ruling before December 31, while the current justices who heard the case remain on the court.

100 Year Celebration *Carol Faulkenberry (Chair)*

-197 people were in the group photo and were served at the meal, plus one baby doll.
-Thanks were given to Dale for the yard work, the book club for the flower beds, and Angela, Carol, and Lisa Miller for the historical research. Thanks also went to Adam and Jerry for providing golf-cart rides, which helped several members attend.
-The notes written on the meaning of the stained-glass windows will be compiled into one document for future use.

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5 Old Business

2027 Budget

Stewardship Committee Will Meet Nov. 18 @ 6:00pm

Custodial Contract Changes *David Griffith, Lauren Timms, Rob Wilson, Pastor Bryan*

Custodial Contract. No change yet. Pastor Bryan, Rob, and David need to meet and set a clear task list. If the contractor does not complete those tasks, the contract will be renegotiated. Floor stripping and waxing will likely move to Brady as a quarterly or annual project. Thanks were given for the sanctuary floor cleaning. A carpet cleaner has been purchased, but delivery has been delayed.

Van Loan/Interest Rate *Pastor Bryan*

The payoff as of November 2 was $21,546.50 at 8% interest (about $4.69 a day, or about $141 a month). The term is 48 months. The church is making the regular payment. Information on the credit card limit was also requested.

Youth Director Search

There are three potential candidates: two applicants and one highly probable candidate. Interviews are planned for right after Thanksgiving with Rob, Lauren, and Carol F., plus a few senior high youth.

Celebration Meal Costs

The meal money was counted and turned in. A small bill for the cake remains and will go to Pastor Bryan for payment.

6 New Business

Property insurance: changing carriers

A broker (Tom ___) who works with other churches in the conference believes he can cut the current premium (about $40,000 a year) roughly in half. He has five years of loss runs and building information, and the quote is in underwriting. The quote will go to the full council, and David and Carol will review it. No change will be made without council review.

2027 Nominations

The nominations list will be ready in December. Members are encouraged to recommend names.
-Class of 2026 (rotating off in December): David Griffith, Heather Cunningham, Jenna Garnet
-Class of 2027: Carol Falkenberry, Rob Wilson, Melinda Hurster, Angela Buttery
-Class of 2028: Skye Forrester, Kelly Johnson, Dale Steltzer
-Class of 2029: Blake ___, Lauren Timms

2027 Pastoral Compensation

The required form arrived this week and will be completed for December. The stewardship team has decided on no across-the-board raises. The only change to the pastor's package is health insurance: a lower-cost plan that includes an HSA.

Discussion about Van Policy

The October minutes recorded the policy as approved as a working document, with any changes to come in

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November. No changes were proposed.

7 Announcements

Next meeting: Monday, December 14, 2026
The focus will be the 2027 budget, pastoral compensation, and Charge Conference nominations. Reading is optional because of the holidays.
The meeting adjourned on a motion by David at (time).

Closing prayer

General Announcements
The vehicle insurance card is missing from the vehicle. Pastor Bryan will locate the documents, which are also needed for the new insurance quote.
April returns to the office the week after Thanksgiving.

8 Action Items

Task	Who	Due
Locate Vehicle Insurance	Bryan	
Contract Signed with Brady	Rev.Bryan Rogers (Senior Pastor)	
Quote for the Kitchen Repairs	Brady	
Pray for Vision	Council	
Pastoral Compensation	Bryan & Carol F.	
Launch Pink Sheet Maintenance Process	Rev.Bryan Rogers (Senior Pastor)	
Finalize proposed budget	Stewardship	Dec 14
Nominations List	Rev.Bryan Rogers (Senior Pastor)	

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

_____

Rev. Bryan Rogers

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