

Council Minutes August 12, 2025

Attendance: Kurt Freeman, Nick Fetchina, Scott Gillespie, Dana Blanchard, Hollie Kessler, Emily Mayer, Jake Mayer, Adam Allen, Carol Yarian, Judi Austin, Bruce Mowery

Committee shared where we have seen God at work and Kurt opened the meeting in prayer.

May meeting minutes approved.

Staff Parish

Judi reported that the committee hasn't met since June; Kurt's renewal was successful both for Kurt and the church

Early Learning

Dana reported that summer camp was a success. Getting ready for half-day preschool to start. Will discuss payroll/overtime at next EL board meeting to possibly make some changes to pay cycle.

Finance

Nick reported that July giving was down, and we had to use some savings to help cover expenses; So far, income for first two Sundays in Aug. has been good. Budget process is beginning for 2026. Need to increase our apportionment (conference tithe) payment. We are currently at 3.6% of what we should be giving and are looking at increasing that by 1% per year. If we do that for 2026, we would be at 4.6% of total and would increase our payment by \$500 per month (\$6000 for the year).

Trustees

Adam reported that trustees are watching expenses. Fall clean up day scheduled for 10/25 (may reschedule due to charge conference date, trustee committee will discuss). Still waiting on the bill for the last A/C unit that was replaced.

Children's Ministry

Attendance has been down for the summer, which is normal, but starting to pick back up as school is starting. Backpack Blessing/Bibles went well this weekend. Trunk or Treat is scheduled for 10/26 from 4-6pm.

Youth, Band, Tech

Jake reported that a video has been recorded to begin showing this weekend about kids staying with parents/not wandering during church-video is funny and entertaining, while hopefully kindly conveying the message about the importance of safety for the kids. Through the Bible podcast going well so far; talking through how to get people involved and engaged in discussion. Planning a website page for all the info.

Terra, Hollie and Jake met with Sound Advice (our IT providers) and they are restructuring their services due to more security issues and needing to provide more monitoring for clients. This will be more expensive for us...they are coming to evaluate later in the week and will get us an estimate. Will include this new amount in our IT budget proposal for 2026.

Worship is going well.

Youth collaborative met last weekend and will meet again in Sept. Our Christ UMC youth group will meet the 4th Sunday of each month from 4-5:30 beginning 8/24. Also working on getting youth small groups started.

Hospitality/Outreach/Small Groups/Care Ministries

Carol reported that the Faith Builders class is doing the Bible Year study; All in Class begins this Sunday and has 8 signed up. Backpack program starts back up 9/4 and all volunteers returned this year, which is great. Kids Klost is only accepting kids/teen clothing-no household items or adult clothing.

The Fall Festival is planned for 9/25 from 5-7pm at Wea Creek Orchard. Suicide Remembrance Service is 9/10 at 7pm. Prayer Ministry is a very faithful group serving on Sunday mornings and at ABLBH on Monday evenings. Caregivers group is still going.

Pastor's Report

Bruce reported that He-Brews is going well on Friday mornings from 8-9am. All men are welcome!

Kurt reported that Lay Leadership has a meeting coming up next week.

Met with the DS and he is encouraging all churches to think about what are the 2 things our church does best?

What 2 things define us? Committee agreed that being welcoming/hospitable is a great strength of Christ UMC. Kurt encourages committee to think about this so we can continue to discuss it.

Kurt's renewal leave was great, and he thanks the staff and congregation.

Submitted,
Hollie Kessler