University United Methodist Church, Baton Rouge, LA

Church Council Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2026 – 7PM

Lay Leader Steve Backstrom called the meeting to order, followed by Rev. Jay Hogewood offering the opening prayer.

Minutes

Jeff Albright made a motion to accept the August minutes. Joe Morton seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Finance Update

Chair Jeff Albright went over the changes to the church budget. In September the finance committee approved the changes. A motion was made by Sean Love to approve the revised budget for 2027. It was seconded by Kerry Hawkins and approved unanimously. Jeff also went over the Sept. Budget vs. Actual Statement, and reviewed the Statement of Financial Position. Both of these documents proved we are in an awesome financial position.

Trustees Update

Chair John Myers gave an update on campus repair projects. The largest one coming up is the shed roof. The committee is hoping for multiple donors to be able to replace about 100 chairs in Fellowship Hall. If not successful in seeking donations, they will go ahead and make the purchase. Parking lot stripes and numbers in the front lot were done by the Boy Scouts who did a great job.

Nominations Report

Rev. Jay was very pleased with the efforts of the leadership development committee. They are still working on Finance Chair since Jeff Albright is moving into the Treasurer position. Jeff moved to approve the 2027 nominations slate, Kelly Moore seconded the motion and it was approved. Steve thanked outgoing members for their time of service.

New Business

Steve said the Rise Against Hunger event is now scheduled for Sunday, Nov.1, and it is helpful if people pre-register online. There will also be a Toy Drive and Food Drive for Hope Ministries coming up. Social Justice chair Melissa Nguyen reported on several things: 1. Holy Grill went very well; 2. The 40th anniversary week for the Interfaith Federation also went well and we

caught up on our dues for them; 3. They're bringing dinner to the Wesley Foundation on Nov.4; 4. It's not too late to join the book study on "Making Sense of the Bible; Rediscovering the Power of Scripture" by Adam Hamilton. The next meeting is Nov.15th.

Rev. Jay talked about the Jubilee Dollars program that begins in Feb., 2027. We need to start fine tuning our letter of intent for the monetary awards that will be given by the conference over the next 2 years. Our last meeting of the year is Monday, Dec. 7th.

Closing Prayer

After a motion was made and seconded to adjourn, Steve offered the closing prayer.

Council members/guests present:

Steve Backstrom, Kerry Hawkins, Jeff Albright, Rev. Jay Hogewood, Melissa Nguyen, Janie Levert, Katie and Sean Love, Joe Morton, Shirley Flake, Seth Irby.

By zoom: Kelly Moore, Sean Nelson, Tanya Thomas, John Myers, Jesse Depriest, Tommy Damico