



MINUTES

Board Meeting
September 22, 2026, 6:00pm
Fellowship Hall

Attendance: 4 staff (Ashley Mills Sarah Taylor Peck, Andrew Taylor Peck, Abigail Grisano); 20 board members (Scott Gray, Syd Stansberry, Tammy Gerhart, Robin Perso, Andrea Wiggins, Matt Friedrich, Alicia Adams, Leslie Clay, Todd Rauch, Joy Powell, Sara Adams, Don Harter, Bob Whittet, Kristen Crews, Chuck Watts, Darlene Miles, Melissa Webel, Linda Poehlmann, Cheri Ghan, Shawna Schulte) 8 guests (Bill Ryan, Linda Smith, Judi Schoonover, Chris Meade, Stuart Smith, Mary Cunningham, Ken Nobles, Wayne Holden).

Absent- Lynelle Phillips, Brent Ghan, Patsy Dalton, John Casse

1. Opening prayer – **Scott Gray** (meeting called to order at 6:08)
2. Chair's remarks – **Scott Gray**
 - a. Resignation of John Poehlmann as Chair of Personnel Committee - John resigned in August. Leslie Clay is now the chair and a Board member. Scott acknowledged all John's leadership over the last few months and the work the committee has done on their policies.
 - b. Role and expectations of the Board and its members - This was part of the remarks during the first meeting of the Church year held in July. Eight members were absent from that meeting, and one new member has joined the Board since then. Scott distributed blue folders to those that did not get them last time.
 - c. Board meeting schedule - Scott reminded the Board, per the bylaws, there is the requirement for 6 board meetings, but no requirement of when other than to have the first meeting of the Church year in July. The date for March was updated to the 16th. Board meeting schedule is 6:00 p.m. except for where noted: July 21, September 22, December 1 (due to Harp & Healing Blue Christmas service, the start time has been moved to 7:00 p.m.), January 26, March 16, and May 25.
 - d. Recognition of Board members- We have five birthdays over the next three months on the board. Todd Rauch- September 10, Leslie Clay- September 29, Bob Whittet- October 9, Andrew Taylor Peck- November 6 , and Matt Friedrich November 26.
3. Congregant comment period – Following the standing rule of the Board, congregants who sign up to comment. Comments shall be no more than three (3) minutes per congregant. The comment period shall not exceed a total of fifteen (15) total minutes.
 - a. Three congregants have signed up for comment and topics are anything on the agenda.
 - b. **Judy Schoolover-** Judy shared she is a 15-year member of BCC and she considers the whole church as a sacred space. She has served on several committees and supports displays and promotions in the Narthex. She said these

are wonderful outreach programs and have a personal investment in the Tree of Hope. She does not see an issue with church activities on display, but said she does not want it to look like a county fair.

- c. **Linda Smith-** Linda shared she joined BCC 7 years ago and has been on the MOM Committee. She came to the meeting to express concerns regarding the proposed Nathrex policy. She indicated this might be one of the concerns with the current welcome center. She believes the recommendation for cards and materials is outdated and stated engagement requires personal interaction.
- d. **Mary Cunningham-** Mary is concerned about the proposed Narthex policy and the impact this has on people who visit the church for the first time. She believes the policy is because her Sunday school class wanted to write to their congressman regarding the war in Iraq. The idea was presented to the Executive Committee, they felt uncomfortable supporting the letter as a church. The Board Chair allowed them to obtain individual signatures in the narthex. Mary if they were to do it all over again, she wouldn't have done it that way. Mary said she fully encourages the use of the space to be used for engagement, but not as a fairground.

4. Minister's remarks

- a. **Sarah Taylor Peck-** The All Means All service will be held in October on World Communion Sunday, with Jay Dudley preaching and his congregation will be encouraged to attend. Nine people are expected to join in person that Sunday; they have already joined by paper over the past six weeks. Sarah remains hopeful and prayerful for those who serve the church.
- b. **Andrew Taylor Peck-** The church participated in the CROP Walk last Sunday. PrideFest is next Sunday, followed by the Blessing of the Beasts on Sunday, October 4, at 3:00 p.m. The Blessing of the Beasts will be held outdoors. The first Harp and Healing service with Terry Overfelt is also upcoming. Andrew will be on a silent retreat Monday through Friday of next week.
- c. **Ashley Mills-** No update. Scott welcomed her to the meeting and asked her to share updates and information as we move through the agenda.

5. Information items

- a. **Andrea Wiggins-** Church Membership Report
 - i. Andrea expressed appreciation for Ashley's work and for providing a tutorial on pulling membership from Realm. Andrea shared the updates of current membership generated by Ashley Mills for the for 7/16/26-9/16/26:
 - a. Total Active Members 548
 - b. Total Active and Inactive Members 595.
 - ii. Tammy asked about how we track Active and Inactive members and if daily attendance sheets are still entered. Scott confirmed daily attendance sheets are not entered into Realm. Sarah stated they are using the Shepherding Teams for the Active Member outreach. In July and August, they had 100% reporting they checked in with their members. It was acknowledged there is a big shift during the stewardship moment in which people said they were inactive. Andrew commented that he previously spent a considerable amount of time reviewing recorded attendance compared to actual attendance and there is a difference in reporting.
- b. **Alicia Adams-** Safety and Security Report
 - i. Ashley acknowledged this is a newly formed committee. The committee has met with Ashley, Sarah and other staff to understand needs. They

have updated the key policy and made a recommendation to review the key policy every year. When they had a key report pulled, they found there were a lot of people who no longer attend. They are implementing a building lock-up checklist and asking board members to sign up for Sundays. If there is an issue, Board members should write comments in the binder. They are currently getting bids for increased security. Alicia introduced Ken Nobles as a new church member to provide a security presentation to the board.

c. **Ken Nobles- Church Member- Security Presentation to the Board**

- i. Ken briefly shared his background including his career in law enforcement, former state trooper, former 24 year federal officer and experience teaching at the academy. He specializes in de-escalation and security.
- ii. Ken acknowledges this is a difficult conversation in a church because churches want to be welcoming. He attended the Safety Committee Meeting and shared feedback on how to meet the church where they are at and what could be used. Ken shared there are 24 exterior doors at the church. Ken shared material and reflected on the graph from the violence prevention project which showed 400 incidents in a church and 513 homicides. He reflected, 1% of 1% since 2020, that makes up this statistic. There is a less chance that someone is in an airplane accident, but yet airlines do a safety briefing every flight. He stated you prepare by practicing it over and over again. He then discussed the importance of safety and security plans extending beyond the property, but during church events, like the pride parade. Ken discussed options for increasing security and preparedness may include things like electronic surveillance, safety teams, door alarms, plans for if a kid goes missing, trained security teams through volunteers, bleeding classes, first aid practices, congregation communication and training, fire alarm day, or special event team and protocols. A plan would be developed following a full security site and physical security risk assessment.
- iii. Ken shared several stories. One highlighted the preparedness efforts of Rick Rescorla contributing to the timely evacuation of ~3000 co-workers members during 9-11. Because he repeatedly ran drills, they knew how to respond to an evacuation. He also talked about making security convenient, so people do it and shared an example about addressing staff's repeated use of placing a rock in a door by installing a car reader to make it accessible.
- iv. Ken discussed the board's responsibility for protecting everyone who walks through the doors, improving security policies and protocols, and allocating funding. He acknowledged there are lower cost things that can be done. His next step recommendations included a site assessment, strengthening committee, and communication.
- v. Comments from the board and guests (1) including the location of the fire extinguisher and AEDs in the emergency plan (2) including a Code Adam protocol in the church emergency plan for a missing child and (3) awareness of the panic button and what the congregation should do if it is used.
- vi. Alicia closed this report by sharing the committee's mission statement- "To cultivate a safe, secure, and welcoming environment for worship,

fellowship, and ministry by proactively identifying risks, preparing for emergencies, and serving with compassion and vigilance.”

- d. **Tammy Gerhart-** Financial Report- Tammy shared the financial report was included in the board packet. Currently, we are 16.66% into the year and had advance pledges of \$57K. We are reflecting \$54K in the positive right now. The Property Committee has some big expenditures with the roof project. Staff expenditures are a little over due to something that was excluded. Kirk will get more on Saturday and going forward will send out committees reports monthly. Tammy concluded, we are in good standing right now.
- e. **Todd Rauch-** Property Committee Report
 - i. **Gym Floor Replacement** – The Steering Committee for the gym floor replacement will meet this Thursday and every Thursday. The committee will work on the details of the plan and timeline. Additional town hall meetings are expected to be scheduled to provide opportunities for questions and answers.
 - ii. **Heather Lane** – There are currently several semi-trucks parking on Heather Lane. The church is working to have the trucks reduced. Some truck drivers may live in nearby apartments and prefer to park close to home. The goal is to reduce the number of trucks on Heather Lane for the safety of church members.
 - iii. **La Petite** – La Petite is interested in leasing property from BCC and is currently working on fundraising. They are having difficulty finding suitable space because of restroom requirements.
 - iv. **Elevators** – The elevator door has been taped over to restrict use. One company has provided a bid of approximately \$24,000, and additional companies in the St. Louis area are being contacted to ensure the church receives a competitive bid.
 - v. **Roof** – The main roof project is complete, and the roof has not been leaking. However, the roof over the main entrance is leaking. One bid of approximately \$28,000 has been received, and additional bids will be obtained.
 - vi. **Fall Cleanup Day** – Fall Cleanup Day is scheduled for November 14. Plans include trimming and mulching. If weather prevents outdoor work, the group will work on indoor projects instead.
 - vii. **Parking** – An announcement about All Means All will be included in the Broadway Weekly. Members who are able to walk farther are being asked to park farther from the building to make closer spaces available. One additional handicapped parking space will also be added.
 - viii. **Interior Signs** – The Property subcommittee is continuing to work on additional interior signage.
- f. **Scott Gray**
 - i. **CLC Gym Renovation** – Twenty-nine church members, excluding the panel, attended the meeting regarding the CLC gym renovation. The group was provided with basic information and a vision for what the space could become. The vision includes eventually incorporating an Upward Sports ministry into the church.
 - ii. **Committee Descriptions and Policies** – Safety, Finance, Personnel, and Property have already begun reviewing their committee descriptions and policies. The committees are reviewing their mission statements and policies to clarify their roles and responsibilities. This will help those interested in joining a committee or serving in a committee better



understand what is expected of them, especially during the first year they serve.

- g. Open discussion for Board members to report
 - i. No additional information was shared during the meeting. The board packet was distributed prior to the meeting for member review.

6. Old Business

- a. **John Cassels**, Worship Committee – Tabled vote during the July 2026 meeting to reaffirm an existing policy of the Church named “Narthex Policy” and for it now to be named “Narthex and Sacred Spaces Policy.” (see attachment)
 - i. Kristen Crews presented a reworked policy on behalf of John Cassels and the Worship Committee. She read the current policy from 2011 and reiterated that the policy has not been reinforced. The Worship Committee received feedback that mobility is difficult when crowded and noise is disruptive to the services. The Worship Committee met several times and agreed that the intention of the policy remains appropriate, and the wording of the policy could be changed. The intention is not to limit use or promotion of activities in church, but encourage use of other space. Kristen recommended the board try the new policy and revisit if necessary.
 - ii. Scott reiterated if approved, this policy could be revisited as necessary, and it was stated people could still promote during announcement time during worship.
 - iii. Several comments and questions were shared.
 - 1. Melissa asked if this included directional signage and it was clarified that it was excluded.
 - 2. Sarah Taylor Peck added this is a geography question, not a mission question. She shared she has visited other churches and shared some ideas of how we could utilize the fellowship hall as an informational setting. She mentioned the Methodist church next door has a living room and coffee area. It was stated that half of the All Means All services have overflow seating using the Narthex.
 - 3. Mary Cunningham noted the church previously had donuts and fellowship time on Sundays, but the current schedule is very tight.
 - 4. The group discussed having young people prepare and serve coffee as a way to raise money as part of the youth program.
 - 5. Ashley noted that approximately 80% of rentals use the Fellowship Hall, with the space being rented eight to ten times per week. The Fellowship Hall is also frequently used by members of the congregation.
 - 6. Syd recalled that several years ago the Fellowship Hall had partitions, which she decorated. She also discussed the importance of educating pastors and encouraging greater staff involvement in the use of the space.
 - 7. Shari encouraged the Worship Committee to revisit the policy if the Safety and Security Committee redirects building entry.
 - 8. Don said that plan sounds good on paper and agrees it can be amended. He expressed several with reduced engagement opportunities with MOM. He shared that BCC collected 83 fans

during the fan drive. He said the nursery wing is only 7 feet wide, but he moved his table where it was 11 feet wide.

9. Sarah Adams reiterated there is already a policy in place, but the difference between the two is wording.
10. Matt asked what the last sentence means. Kristen provided a couple examples and said that it provides the Lead Pastor, in consultation with the Worship Ministry Team, responsibility for interpreting and implementing this policy.
11. Todd asked if the welcome center would be removed; Sarah clarified that is not reflected in the policy.
12. Todd also said that he added some more pews in the Narthex.
13. Scott asked that we include what doors are included in the committee.
14. Andrea recommended a visual or map be included in the policy for clarity.
15. It was asked about incorporating the Tree of Hope; Sarah Taylor Peck recommended things like that could be added to the sanctuary.
16. Todd asked if the two big screens could be used; Sarah Taylor Peck said a slide show could be running on a loop on televisions throughout the building.
17. Andrew mentioned at his previous church, there was a nice white wall with displays for cards that provided information on activities.
18. Todd suggested we have people go through other doors.
19. Sarah Taylor Peck asked that a team look at how we could use the fellowship space.
20. Don mentioned there was an interim policy from the Worship Committee that was very different. Don mentioned there were spaces that he previously used (tile) in the 2011 policy that are not allowed with the 2026 proposed version. He explained that he chose to be outside with the new policy. Don mentioned that he saw an interim policy on restrictions on how the engagement center could be used. Don said he questioned why it was missing from the final version. The MOM Committee also drafted a policy on how they could use the Narthex. Don encouraged the two to work collaboratively to develop policy.
21. Cheri reflected that years ago, the fellowship hall was the heart of the church.

- iv. Sarah Adams made a motion to table the discussion; Tammy Gerhart second. Motion passed (18 approved. 0 disapproved).

7. New business

- a. Vote of the Board on nominees to fill any committee vacancies
 - i. Finance Committee - Kristen Meade, as nominated by the Executive Committee. Tammy Gerhart made a motion to accept the nomination of Kristen Mead to the Finance Committee, Todd Rauch second. Motion passed (18 approved, 0 disapproved).
 - ii. Personnel Committee - Craig Brumfield, Chris Meade, Tina Van Ness, as nominated by the Executive Committee. Leslie Clay added both Craig and Chris have sat in at the last meeting and the committee welcomes



them all. Tammy Gerhart made a motion to accept the nomination of Craig Brumfield, Chris Meade, and Tina Van Ness to the Personnel Committee. Alicia Adams second.. Motion passed (18 approved, 0 disapproved).

- iii. Vice Chair of Adult Discipleship Committee - Craig Brumfield, as nominated by the Board Chair. Tammy Gerhart made a motion to accept the nomination of Craig Brumfield as Vice Chair of the Adult Discipleship Committee, Todd Rauch second. Motion passed (18 approved, 0 disapproved).
- iv. Vice Chair of the Worship Committee - Jan Frost, as nominated by the Board Chair. Tammy Gerhart made a motion to accept the nomination of Jan Frost as Vice Chair of the Worship Committee, Todd Rauch second. Motion passed (18 approved, 0 disapproved).

8. Closing Prayer – **Syd Stansberry** (meeting adjourned at 8:14)

Submitted by Andrea Wiggins, Board Secretary, 9/24/26

Approved by Scott Gray, Board Chair 9/30/26