

Ad Council Meeting Minutes

5-31-2026

Attendees: Andy Bryan, Colette Cummings, Cathy Todisman, Jerry Blackwell, Nancy Thompson, Rachel Ward, Kevin Watkins, Diane Watkins, David Vierse, Al Whitehead, Kathryn Cox, Marlene Whitehead, Ray Jauregui, Mike Plonka, Tim McDonough

Opening

- Rachel opened with discussion about living a life of faith, listening to Abby's faith statement, discussion about our unhoused neighbors, and her two co-workers that have recently been deported. Appreciates how this congregation supports all people in our community.

Celebrations and Upcoming Events

- May 24th – baptisms, confirmation, new members
- Parents night out, ~8 kids from 4 families
- Staffing up for Summer Academy (except Friday afternoons!)
- Brought in 3 summer associate VISTAs, had a goal of 4. Two of them are returning from last year.
- Had someone come into the pop-up café on Thursday and volunteer to work Mon-Thurs afternoons during Summer Academy
- Completed first academic year of D.Min. program
- Five people from our congregation attended the discussion in Maplewood about our unhoused community along with one person from CSC
- ICE training / Amendment 4 training last Monday
- Ward 3 meeting was well attended
- Andy did his planning retreat and has sermons planned from July - Dec

Finance

- Giving is behind this year vs last year through April
- Shop purchased shelving for the back corner at a cost of about \$500
- Trying to move everything to ChurchTrac, right now online giving is via Subsplash; need to have a discussion in the future
 - ACH reduces cost of online giving
 - Should communicate the change at the same time – ChurchTrac and ACH
 - Need to review all of the functionality that is carried on Subsplash and make a plan to transition before the next annual payment is due

Trustees

- Dave will email a copy of the report to the group
- Parsonage – put up blinds, secured basement windows, still needs a few more blinds
 - ~\$30 for roll down or \$45 for louvred blinds
- Collecting RFPs
 - Painting – finished lower windows, now reviewing upper windows (\$3,900 max) and parsonage porch (\$1,000)
 - Replacing plexi-glass over the main stained glass window (\$1,700)
 - Total max \$6,640
 - Will have a trustees meeting to review and then send for approval based on what is budgeted and not budgeted for each item
- Tech Electronics is sending a bid for fire alarm to bring up to code – once we start doing building updates the entire building will need to be updated; have a staff person that helps secure grants for this type of work

PPRC

- Presented updates to payroll and increase process for approval next month. Main change is moving hourly staff increases to be effective 1/1 beginning in 2027 vs first check of March.

Communications

- Chris Shirar is updating the online communications request form
- Doesn't change the newsletter process, but can use it for that as well

Summer Academy

- There was a request to have a bounce house that was reviewed with the insurance company. Indicated it could be rented and the owner has insurance, but not purchased / maintained by ourselves unless we get a rider for it.

Pastor's Report

- Identified a need for some outdoor signage
 - Please ring bell
 - No firearms allowed
 - ICE requires signed judicial warrant
 - May bring unwanted attention
 - Some businesses have a variation of this

- No current conference guidance, potentially ask at conference meeting
- Have an offer for a new refrigerator donation
 - Need to identify where it can be placed with available power
 - Side by side w/bottom drawer freezer
- Entry Way Task Force has come to a consensus about the direction for making the building more accessible
 - Add an entry way to Sutton street entrance, ramp down to fellowship hall.
 - Add elevator in northwest corner of fellowship hall, will remove part of the Trustee closet
 - Elevator would arrive on main floor in the current conference room, take down that wall and create a lobby (in the Narthex)
 - Elevator would arrive on the third floor opening the opposite direction in the current youth room.
 - Does not require an equipment room for the elevator
 - Do we need emergency power for the elevator?
 - ADA compliant restrooms
 - Convert custodian closet to restroom, have custodian closet where the current basement bathroom is
 - Directly above that would take some of the space out of the children's room – may keep the old restroom and add an ADA compliant, or extend the existing restroom; potentially have a door from the children's Sunday School room directly into one of the bathrooms.
 - Requesting approval for task force to move forward with next steps including:
 - Communicate to congregation
 - Contact the city to review permitting
 - Contact the UMC district for approval
 - Begin determination of cost for more detailed plans

Action Items

- Requests for approval
 - Minutes from April meeting
 - Moved by Diane Watkins, seconded by David Vierende
 - APPROVED
 - Refrigerator donation, pending identification of where it will be placed
 - Moved by Nancy Thompson, seconded by Kathryn Cox
 - APPROVED
 - \$500 expense for back area shelving in 2nd Hand Shop from Memorial Funds
 - Moved by Jerry Blackwell, seconded by Kathryn Cox

- APPROVED
- \$400 expense for tablecloths, signage, and banner for fellowship hall from Memorial Funds
 - Moved by Kathryn Cox, seconded by Jerry Blackwell
 - APPROVED
- Task Force consensus on entry way accessibility, entry way, safety, and security proposal and continuing to next steps. No financial commitment at this time.
 - Moved by Colette Cummings, seconded by Kathryn Cox
 - APPROVED
- Audit due 6/1, Kevin will ensure this gets submitted by Robin
- Request additional recycling bin and new trash cans (Brittany)

For next meeting

- Trustees will provide amounts for budgeted and non-budgeted tasks for approval either ahead of or at next meeting.

Next Steps

- Upcoming meetings:
 - 6/28/26 – 12:15 pm
 - 7/26/26 – 12:15 pm

Motion to adjourn executive session and council meeting – moved by Cathy Todisman, second by Colette Cummings. APPROVED