Pastor's Report for Administrative Council - August 2026

2026 ANNUAL GOALS

1) Policies and Processes
    - Tech/IT Policy and Inventory - Using General Council on Finance and Administration template
        - Still in process

2) Building Accessibility and safety - entrance, elevator, fire alarm, fire doors
    - Ministry report is complete except for one item (total estimated cost)
    - Will be sent to DS pending completion

3) Anticipate continued growth effectively - "Get big by staying small"
    - Next "Get Connected" - Sunday September 6 (downside = Labor Day Weekend)
    - Beginning a new adult Sunday School class, discussions for a second worship service

4) Continue to explore collaboration opportunities with nearby churches
    - Webster, Lafayette Park, Unity, Grace, and Maplewood combined worship services:
        - "Election Night Communion" "Longest Night/Blue Christmas" "Maundy Thursday"
    - Youth continuing to meet throughout the year - Next United Youth meeting = Halloween party

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DISCUSSION:

- Ongoing community conversations around Maplewood residents experiencing homelessness
    - Stakeholders: unhoused members, city social services office, Maplewood police, MapleGood, Maplewood Human Services Commission, The Community Unity Center, Maplewood UMC, others
    - Our Mission: Create spaces where people can have authentic encounters with Christ, discover their Spiritual gifts, and use them for God's glory.
        - Question: Are we doing this in this particular ministry?
    - Our Values: Community, Authenticity, Diversity, Service
        - Question: Do our words and actions reflect these values in the community conversation?

ACTION:

- Approval of purchase and set-up for a computer work station in Fellowship Hall
    - CUC idea, funded by donation, available on Thursdays during PopUp Cafe
- Approval of Charge Conference Document progress to date
    - Authorization of email approval prior to September 15 due date

OTHER REPORTING:

- Took two weeks vacation - July 20-August 2
- Four movie nights, Wednesdays August 5, 12, 19, 26 - Averaged 11 in attendance
- Participated in Maplewood Police Advisory Board meeting - August 11
- Met with Amber Withycombe, Celeste Grayer, Matt Nighbor, Bailey Schuchmann, and Brittany Link to talk about church's ministry with and among our unhoused members - August 12
- Attended first City Council/Community Task Force meeting - August 17
    Note: I will have to miss the remaining three meetings due to conflict with one of my fall classes

- Classes start Monday the 31st - Monday and Thursday evenings
    - “Pastoral Care and Contemporary Issues in Urban Ministry” & “Preaching as Embodied Performance”
- Monthly staff meetings begin Tuesday, September 1, 10:00 am
- Leaders’ Circle - Saturday, September 19, 10:00 am - 11:30 pm
- Charge Conference is set for November 14, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm - First UMC St. Charles