Ad Council Meeting Minutes

2-22-2026

Attendees: Andy Bryan, Colette Cummings, Cathy Todisman, Jerry Blackwell, Nancy Thompson, Rachel Ward, Kevin Watkins, Tim McDonough, Kathryn Cox, David Phelps, Charlotte Phelps

Opening

- Rachel opened with a thank you for the Mr. Rogers series, her daughter said: Messages were inspirational and helped us process things in life.
- First meeting of the year, welcome to new members!
- Opening Prayer

Celebrations and Upcoming Events

- Mr. Rogers sermon series
- Four Lenten study groups
- Build-a-Gift
- Christmas Eve / Christmas Day services
- Kyle and Linda as guest preachers
- Prayer vigils
- A few people that have started attending after the prayer vigils
- Confirmation class started (7)
- Pop-up café
- Youth group meeting consistently
- New doors fit in the openings
- Basement bathroom is back in service
- Rally to Bridge Faith & Justice (over 400 total, ~7 MUMC)
- Andy finished first semester of school

Finance

- At year-end received $57,000 over budgeted amount, and spent ~$8,000 above what we budgeted
- Working on Finance policies
    - Updating counter & deposit policy / procedures
    - Andy to send policies to the group for review ahead of March meeting

Trustees

- Review report
- Nancy Thompson and Kathryn Cox asked whether there is a comprehensive list of items that need to be updated to ensure building is code compliant for the programs we are working on putting in place (i.e., After Care, conditional use permit for emergency shelters, etc.). Need to talk to Dave Vierse, however these categories seem to be high priority:
    - Accessibility
    - Fire safety
    - Kitchen
- Clarity on when approval is needed from Ad Council or is part of the budget.
    - Written into the finance policies being brought for approval in March.

Community Unity Center

- 2nd VISTA hired
- Possibility of 4 summer Associate VISTAs at no cost to the church, similar to an internship program.
    - We can leverage this program to support the LifeWise STL replacement program for Freedom School

Freedom School

- We will participate with LifeWise STL on a replacement for the Freedom School program
- Do not yet have information on that programming

Pastor's Report

- Continuing Conditional Use Permit / Emergency Shelter conversations with community, church, and city.
    - 8 people spoke and several letters were written for the City Council meeting in support of the prayer vigils
    - Have additional volunteers to usher these vigils in the future based on that meeting
    - Shift in understanding that this was not just providing shelter but also has a spiritual and uplifting undertone
    - Received invitation from city to meet about conditional use permit process
- Consider having overnight vigils outside of cold weather conditions as well
- Draft rendering of Sutton Street entrance from Carolyn provided during meeting
    - Andy recommends creation of an entryway committee for further review, capital campaign, etc.

        - Recommendation from the council to also have a fire code task force

Action Items

- Requests for approval
    - Minutes from December meeting
        - Moved by Cathy Todisman, seconded by Jerry Blackwell
            - APPROVED
    - Finance requests approval for payment of apportionments in the amount of $28,170 (~$1,000 more than 2025). To be paid out of radical hospitality fund.
        - Moved by Colette Cummings, seconded by Nancy Thompson
            - APPROVED
    - Creation of an ad hoc committee to review entryway proposals and fire code
        - Moved by Cathy Todisman, seconded by Colette Cummings
            - APPROVED

Motion to move to executive session by Cathy Todisman, seconded by Rachel Ward. APPROVED

PPRC

- Request approval for staff increases
    - Moved by Cathy Todisman, seconded by Rachel Ward
        - APPROVED
- Review staffing documents provided.

For next meeting

- Finance policies – Andy to send via email for review prior to March meeting where approval will be requested
- Documentation to ensure everyone is aligned on spending limits (with & without approval) and project budget approvals (Trustees, Finance)

Next Steps

- Upcoming meetings:
    - 3/29/26 – 12:15 pm
    - 4/26/26 – 12:15 pm

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