

Ad Council Meeting Minutes

4-26-2026

Attendees: Andy Bryan, Colette Cummings, Cathy Todisman, Jerry Blackwell, Nancy Thompson, Rachel Ward, Kevin Watkins, Diane Watkins, David Vierse, Al Whitehead, Kathryn Cox, Ray Jauregui, Barb Riney

Opening

- Rachel opened with discussion of our own spiritual journey which she often thinks about as a private journey. But – that is not how Jesus intended it. He wants us to grow together and learn from a larger community that extends us from our comfort zones. Lean into the discomfort and the storm and the rocky side of the mountain. We will see things differently and need to lean into to grow and stretch together.

Celebrations and Upcoming Events

- 94 people at the Thursday night dinner
- Easter celebrations and collaborative service from five congregations
- 2nd parents night out
- Kids went to the garden today during Sunday school
- Jimmy started and the bathrooms are clean

Finance

- Didn't do a special Easter offering, but will be doing a post-Easter offering that will fund the Summer Scholars Academy
- Will send an update at the end of the month
- Giving is up vs last year
- Discussed documentation / reporting with Ty related to Community Unity Center
- Financial policies are still in progress

Trustees

- Floors in fellowship hall will need to be stripped and re-finished after winter; Jimmy (new housekeeper) has experience doing that so we can rent equipment for him to use.

Technology

- Streaming – looking into additional options for live streaming
- Stage lights – installer reviewed and discovered poor connection in extension cord. Has been corrected.

- Video cameras – one camera is having intermittent issues; power supply has been replaced and appears to be operating as expected.

Summer Scholars Academy – June 8 – July 24

- Struggling to get applicants for staffing the academy
 - Have kids signed up, but if we don't have staff will not be able to move forward
 - Lifewise is providing teachers, we are providing staff through summer associate VISTA program (at no cost to us)
- There are links on our website to the VISTA application for this program as an attendee; Andy will check to ensure the staff application is posted as well

Pastor's Report

- Administrative coordinator role request to move to full-time, which would assist with some growth within the congregation.
 - Additional hours have taken a lot off of Andy's plate and has added some additional tasks including opening office on Mondays and launching parents night out event.
- Some of our unhoused neighbors have been sleeping on the porch of the parsonage; they have permission to seek shelter there in the rain. Police have been contacted by neighbors, and Corporal Schuster reached out to Andy to understand the church's stance. Trying to understand if there is a city ordinance being violated.
 - Discussion:
 - Consider signage with expectations, boundaries, capacity, removing items, times, etc.
 - Potential to have a conversation or send a letter from the church with neighbors, city social worker, and police officers to understand specific concerns
 - Need clarification on conditional use permit email from city manager to better understand what that applies to
 - Determined that Andy, Colette (as lay leader) and Rachel (as Ad Council Chair) will draft a letter to share with neighbors to address concerns and also communicate expectations to the people staying on the porch such as no smoking, no drugs, no alcohol, removal of personal effects daily
- Have received ~\$17,000 in memorial funds that are undesignated
 - Building task force meets this week
 - Barb spoke with Cardinal elevator company, they suggested she visit a building in Belleville that has a lift installed similar to what we have

discussed and to bring someone with her that would use it to ensure they would be comfortable

- Summer Scholars Academy
- Organization / more efficient use of space where items are stored in the back corner of the shop
- Add small plaques to areas updated with the funds or add to a memorial book if we have documentation related to it and if family would like it to be noted
- Kitchen – i.e., new wipe-able tablecloths
- Leaders Circle scheduled for May 9th, 10-11:30 am
- Get Connected scheduled for 5/3 – have identified 15 newcomers since the last Get Connected
- 5/24 is Pentecost Sunday and Confirmation (7 confirmands) and 4 Baptisms and 2 parents that will join; Reverend Melissa Dodd (assistant to the bishop) will be a special guest to assist with the confirmands

Action Items

- Requests for approval
 - Minutes from March meeting
 - Moved by David Vierse, seconded by Colette Cummings
 - APPROVED
 - Make administrative coordinator role up to 40 hours per week max to support growth in congregation and church programming
 - Moved by Cathy Todisman, seconded by Diane Watkins & Nancy Thompson
 - APPROVED

For next meeting

- Financial policies are being addressed

Next Steps

- Upcoming meetings:
 - 5/31/26 – 12:15 pm
 - 6/28/26 – 12:15 pm

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