



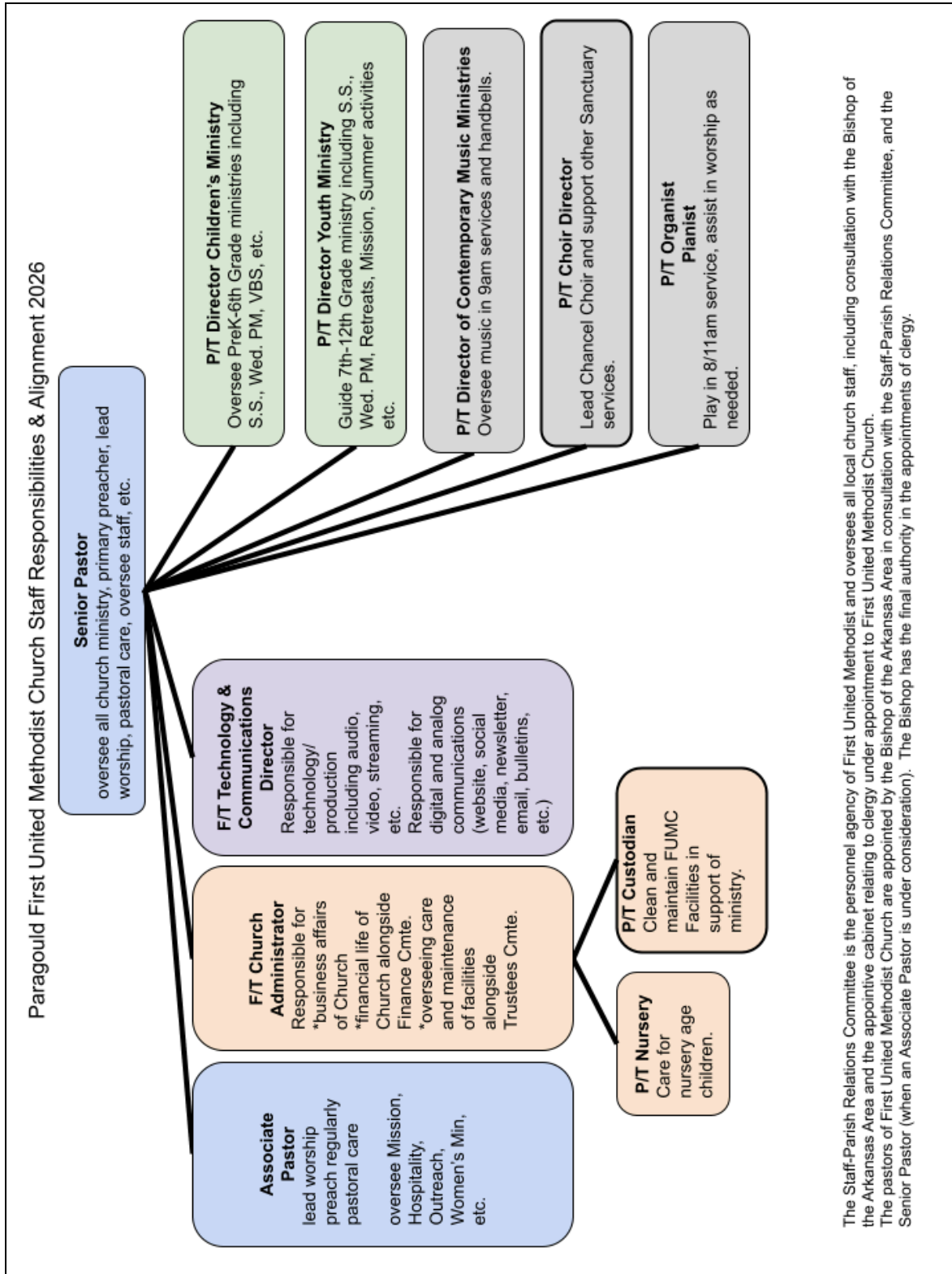
**2026**  
**leadership**  
*orientation*

sunday  
 jan. 11  
 3pm

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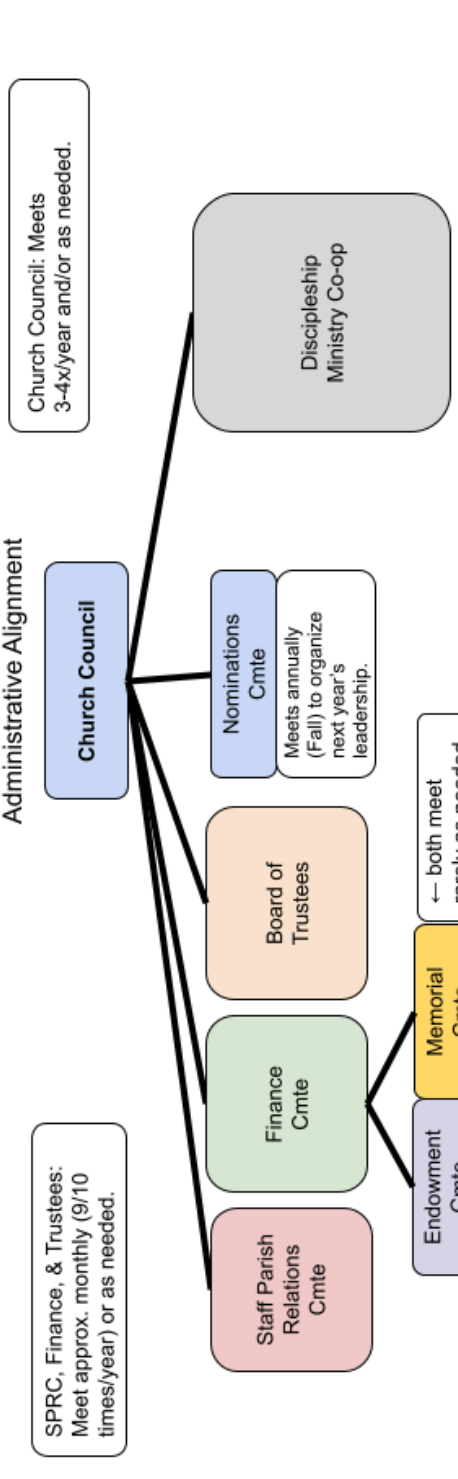
# 1. CALL TO ORDER & PRAYER

## 2. 2026 LAY LEADERSHIP & STAFF STRUCTURE

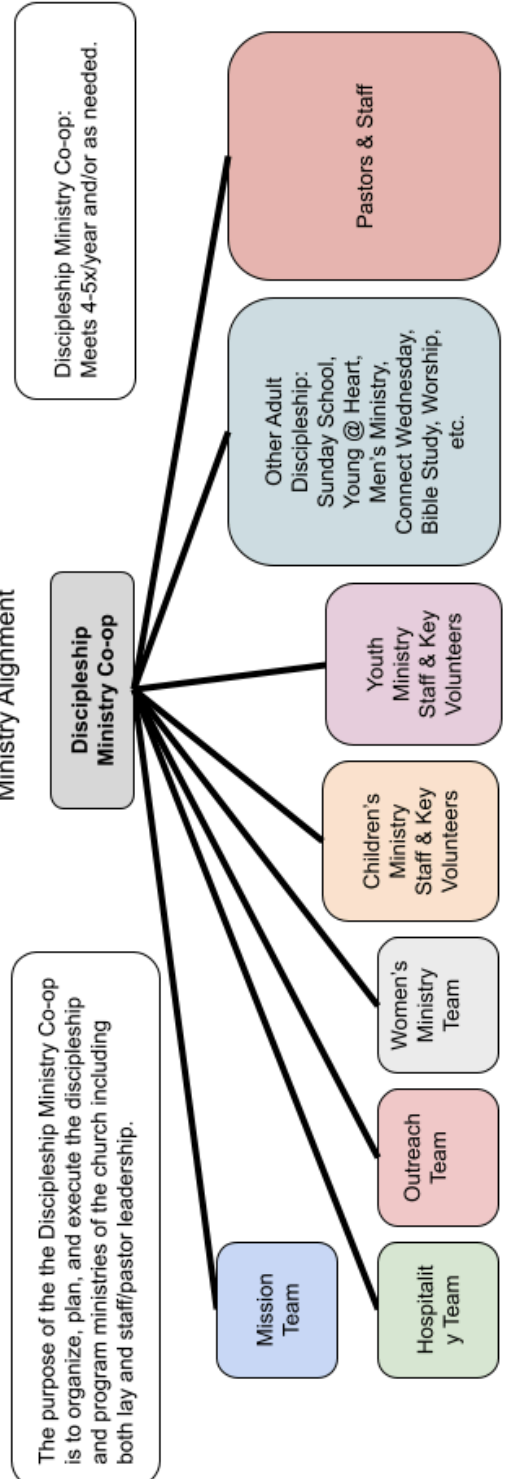


## 2026 Paragould First United Methodist Church

### Administrative Alignment



### Ministry Alignment



**ACTION ITEM RE: SPRC CHAIR****PARAGOULD FUMC LEADERSHIP ROSTER 2026**

<b>Church Council</b>		
Council Chair/Lay Member to AC:	Gene Weeks (25-26)	
Lay Leader/Lay Member to AC:	Tracy Brengard (25-26)	
Alt. Lay Member to AC:	Janice Wilcox	
Chair of SPRC:	Dale Schenk	
Chair of Finance:	Shani Barnhill	
Chair of Trustees:	elected by cmte in '26	
Church Treasurer:	Greg Graham	
Mission Team Chair:	Tracy Finch	
Hospitality Team Chair:	Nancy Cupp	
Outreach Team Chair:	Robin Patten	
Pastors:	Dane Womack & Sarah Ellzey	
Administrative & Program Staff: Angela Newby, Mary Hickox, Brian Pearson, Bernard Raley, Jon Fulkerson, Karoline Risker, Denise Chipman		
At-large Members:		
<i>Class of '26:</i>	<i>Class of '27:</i>	<i>Class of '28:</i>
Jeff Phillips	Heather Watson	Yong Ko
Lissa Tabor	Briget Williams	Curtis Cooksey
Sam Lahaie	Daniel Potter	Mauri Rogers
Ann Honeycutt	Whitney Miller	Brandi Hayden
Tim Roswell	Carol Moreland	Madeline Cupp
Victoria Thompson (youth)	Riley Pearson (youth)	Bella Ellzey (youth)
<b>Finance Committee</b>		
<i>Class of '26:</i>	<i>Class of '27:</i>	<i>Class of '28:</i>
Shani Barnhill (Chair)	Melvin Wamock	Andrew Watson
Mike Gibson	Donna Brazil	Debbie Davault
Joy Sills	Philip Poston	Noah Tullos
Ex officio w/ vote:		
Treasurer:	Greg Graham	
SPRC Chair:	Dale Schenk	
Trustees Chair:		
Church Council Chair/Member to AC:	Gene Weeks (25-26)	
Lay Leader/Member to AC:	Tracy Brengard (25-26)	

**Staff-Parish Relations Committee**

<i>Class of '26:</i>	<i>Class of '27:</i>	<i>Class of '28:</i>
Linda Futrell	Hardy Thompson	Matt Jackson
Dale Schenk (Chair)	Wes Watts	Robin Patten
Rona Waits	Jennifer Harper	Denise Clift
Ex officio w/ vote: Lay Leader/Member to AC:	Tracy Brengard (25-26)	
Ex officio w/ vote: Lay Member to AC:	Gene Weeks	

**Trustees**

<i>Class of '26:</i>	<i>Class of '27:</i>	<i>Class of '28:</i>
Shelia Ragsdell	Jill Weeks	Robert Thompson
Dick Dame	Judy Dacus	Tommy Grooms
John Dodd	Brock Wooldridge	Logan Hickox

**Committee on Lay Leadership & Nominations / Chair: Senior Pastor**

<i>Class of '26:</i>	<i>Class of '27:</i>	<i>Class of '28:</i>
Kersten Herget	Kelsey Matheny	Owen Newby (Y.A.)
Nancy Bruce	Sandy Rogers	Brooke Lands
Sharon Grooms	Linda Faulkner	Keith Metheney
Ex officio w/out vote: Assoc. Pastor		
Ex officio w/ vote, Lay Leader	Tracy Brengard (25-26)	

**Memorial Committee**

<i>Class of '26:</i>	<i>Class of '27:</i>	<i>Class of '28:</i>
Gloria Bridges	Larry Mohler	Kevin Mosslander
Kay Bland	Carolyn Samuel	Diane Blossom

**Endowment Committee**

Robert Branch	Mary Ann Allen	

Official descriptions of Committee and Chair Responsibilities are found in the UMC Discipline. A free online version of the Discipline is available at:

<https://www.cokesbury.com/book-of-discipline-book-of-resolutions-free-versions>

The UMC website offers summary information: <a href="https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/local-church-officer-job-descriptions">https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/local-church-officer-job-descriptions</a>		
The following teams are organized to help oversee the ministry efforts of the church. These are allowed for and encouraged under the UMC Discipline as needed in each church's context. These are less formal in their title/structure than required committees. People may serve on these groups as well as committees listed above. Leadership in these groups may include persons not listed formally on this Nominations report.		
<b>Discipleship Ministry Co-op</b>		
Pastors:	Dane Womack & Sarah Ellzey	
Administrative & Program Staff:	Angela Newby, Mary Hickox, Brian Pearson, Bernard Raley, Karoline Risker, Denise Chipman	
Chair of Church Council:	Gene Weeks (25-26)	
Lay Leader:	Tracy Brengard (25-26)	
Youth/Children's Teachers/Leaders:	S. Barnhill, H. Richardson, S. Cook, S. Lahaie, K. Matheny, J. Womack, etc.	
Adult Ministry Leaders (SS teachers, Connect Wednesday, Young @ Heart, Women's Ministry, Mission Team Chair/Reps, Hospitality Team Chair/Reps):	J & K Combs, J. Jackson, E. Rogers, S. Ragsdell, J. Wilcox, M. Justice, L. Wooldridge, T. Finch, R. Patten, N. Cupp, etc.	
<b>Mission Team (focus on Witt House, other feeding/service ministries, UMCOR opportunities, etc.)</b>		
Tracy Finch (Chair), Judy Dacus, Kerry Combs, Linda Faulkner, Guyla Jackson, Jim Jackson, Rena Jackson, Mary Justice, Charlotte Thompson		
<b>Hospitality Team (focus on on-campus ministries/events including greeters, ushers, receptions, etc.)</b>		
Nancy Cupp (Chair), Carol Moreland, Janice Wilcox, Kevin Moslander, Linda Faulkner, Linda Futrell, Mary Justice, Nancy Bruce, Robin Newby		
<b>Outreach Team (focus on off-campus relationship-building &amp; service opportunities e.g. Pecan Grove)</b>		
Robin Patten (Chair), Jim Jackson, Rena Jackson, Danielle Honeycutt, Allie Robbins, Jennifer Harper		
<b>Women's Ministry Leadership Team</b>		
Tori Thomposon (Chair), Laura Wooldridge, Mary Justice, Allie Robbins, Jill Womack, Andrea Pearson, Traci Finch, Tracy Brengard, Angela Newby		

### 3. MINING 2025

Adapted from “Mining the year: A December practice for pastors” December 9, 2025 by Cameron Merrill<sup>1</sup>

What if the best preparation for 2026 isn't strategic planning? What if it's paying attention to what 2025 was trying to tell us?

I've started calling this "mining the year". ... Mining the year is listening for what God was doing while we were busy doing ministry. It's asking what our congregation taught us, what our exhaustion revealed, and where we actually sensed life breaking through.

Mining the year is the prerequisite for wise planning—because if I don't know what 2025 taught me, I'm just going to repeat the same patterns in 2026 and hope for different results. Because here's what I've learned: the year tells you things if you let it.

When did I/we feel most myself/ourselves in ministry this year?

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What's one thing that worked in 2025 that we need to protect in 2026?

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What holy moment changed something for me/us?

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What didn't work that I/we thought would?

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<sup>1</sup> [https://ministrymatters.com/2025-12-09\\_mining\\_the\\_year\\_a\\_december\\_practice\\_for\\_pastors/](https://ministrymatters.com/2025-12-09_mining_the_year_a_december_practice_for_pastors/)

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What worked that I/we didn't plan for?

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What did God and our congregation teach me/us that I/we wasn't/weren't expecting?

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What am/are I/we still carrying from 2025 that needs to be named? (Joy? Disappointment? Hope?)

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Where did I/we sense God showing up when I/we wasn't/weren't looking for it?

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## 2025 SNAPSHOT:

- Connect Wednesday Jan. 22 - April 30 (Adult Study: Disciple Fast Track)
- Feb 8 Galentines Women's Social; 6pm Youth Super Bowl Tailgate Party
- Feb 9 SOUPer Bowl Sunday
- Feb 21-23 Youth @ Veritas (Fort Smith)
- Lent Series: Lift Up Your Voice: Singing through Lent & Easter
- Lent Soup & Sermon
- Mar 5 Ash Wednesday 12noon & 6pm Sanctuary
- April 6 Confirmation Sunday w/ 10am Brunch
- April 12 Spring Clean Up
- April 13 Palm Sunday
- April 17 Maundy Thursday Communion - Worship Center - 6pm
- April 18 Good Friday Tenebrae Services Noon & 6pm Sanctuary
- April 19 Holy Saturday - Children's Egg Hunt 9am
- April 20 Easter Sunday
- April 25-26 Women's Retreat (Winthrop Rockefeller Institute)
- April 27 Rev. Bill Leslie Dollar Per Week Sunday, 10am reception w/ Mrs. Brenda Leslie
- May 4 Senior Sunday
- June 5-7 Guys Getaway Mt. Eagle & Float Trip
- June 23-26 VBS
- June 22-27 Youth at Ozark Mission Project
- July 14-18 YOUTH Assembly @ Hendrix
- July 21-25 Ready, Set, READ
- July 28-30 OMP 101 rising 5th-6th grade/ 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
- Aug 1-3 Youth Back to School Trip to Branson
- Aug 5 Pool Party 6-8pm
- Aug 10 Back to School Sunday
- Sept. 10 - Nov. 19 Connect Wednesday (Adult Study: Wesleyan Theology)
- Sept 14 Third Grade Bibles Sunday
- Sept 21 Comedian Brian Bates
- Oct. 12 Barkley Thompson Author Presentation
- Oct. 26 Trunk or Treat
- Nov 2 All Saints' Sunday
- Nov 7-9 Refuge (6th-9th grade)
- Nov 9 Acolyte Training 3rd-6th
- Nov. 16 9am Sound Expressions guests / 4pm Organ Recital Colin MacKnight
- Nov. 21 Fill Foodbank at Walmart
- Nov. 22 Downtown Christmas tree lighting Choir & Friends
- Nov 23 Christ the King Sunday / 5pm Hanging of the Greens
- Advent Curriculum: *Voices of Advent* by Skinner. Adult study ZOOM Sun 2pm.
- Dec 2 Downtown Paragould Christmas Parade (FUMC did not participate)
- Dec 6 Youth Progressive Dinner
- Dec 7 Children's Program/Pageant Nativity
- Dec 13 Youth @ Singing Christmas Tree Memphis Bellevue Baptist
- Dec 14 Choir Cantata
- Dec 21 Handbells in 9am & 11am; 5:30pm Cookies, Communion, & Carols @ Chateau
- Dec 24 Wed Xmas Eve - Noon; 5pm; 7pm; 11pm

## Other

- One Service Sunday
- Pecan Grove including Christmas gifts

- Women's Ministry (book club, exercise, mahjong, etc.)
- Men's Ministry (breakfast)
- Kairos Prison Ministry
- Confirmation
- Witt House Food Pantry
- FUMC Merchandise available Online
- Worship Services & Sermon Style/Content
- FUMC hosting PSD football teams/providing meals to GCT swim & state tournament

#### 4. 2025 WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

2024		8a	9a	11a	Total
	J, F, M, A		28	175	119
M, J, J, A		29	145	95	254
S, O, N, D		27	140	111	273
<b>ANNUAL AVG</b>		28	155	108	281
<b>Easter</b>		33	291	282	606
	<b>Noon</b>	<b>5p</b>	<b>7p</b>	<b>11p</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Xmas Eve</b>	147	224	117	63	551

2025		8a	9a	11a	Total
	J, F, M, A		27	143	102
M, J, J, A		25	148	100	255
S, O, N, D		28	151	97	271
<b>ANNUAL AVG</b>		26	147	100	267
<b>Easter</b>		29	203	209	441
	<b>Noon</b>	<b>5p</b>	<b>7p</b>	<b>11p</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Xmas Eve</b>	164	251	89	81	585

## 5. 2025 WITT HOUSE DATA

Year To Date 2025													
Witt House	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Households	338	283	304	318	325	322	323	378	378	429	390	279	4067
Individuals	1037	845	895	947	945	1001	1025	1173	1175	1347	1173	861	12424
<b>Mobile</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Total</b>
Households	287	255	203	297	298	281	304	322	286	337	384	331	3585
Individuals	678	601	558	742	751	718	860	870	797	874	1003	796	9248

Witt House 2018-2025	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
HH Served	2,274	2,355	1,213	1,928	3,478	4,119	4,443	4,067	23,877
People Served	4,526	4,875	2,520	6,250	10,672	12,011	13,478	12,424	66,756
<b>Witt House Mobile 2023-2025</b>									
	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>Total</b>					
HH Served	832	2,947	3,585	7,364					
People Served	2,374	7,106	9,248	18,728					

## 6. 2025 FINANCIALS

### First United Methodist Church

2025 Operating Budget \$1,313,379

Month Ending December 2025

Fund Balances	BEGINNING BAL	DEPOSITS	DISTRIBUTED	ENDING BAL	Notes
General	31,448	160,972	117,828	74,592	need balance of \$20,000 for P/R
Building / 100 Yr Campaign	186,105	264,856	22,720	428,241	
Memorial	33,065	155	-	33,220	
Benevolent	73,780	27,196	14,894	86,082	
Youth	3,754	442	1,087	3,109	
Witt House	29,943	9,177	3,882	35,238	
Family Dinner	12,759	-	-	12,759	

### Monthly/YTD Comparison

	NOVEMBER		DECEMBER		YEAR TO DATE	
	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024
Operating Budget - YTD						
Received - General Funds	76,896	189,478	160,972	189,478	987,411	994,924
Distributed - General	63,951	113,626	117,828	113,626	1,015,341	960,279
Received - Building Funds	7,841	139,360	264,856	139,360	550,339	545,456
Distributed - Building	-	8,891	22,720	8,891	708,121	467,798
Operating Budget Total Received	84,737	328,838	425,828	328,838	1,537,750	1,540,380
Operating Budget Total Distributed	63,951	122,517	140,548	122,517	1,723,462	1,428,077
Other Designated Receipts	21,948	25,792	36,970	25,792	195,760	160,622
Other Designated Distributed	13,361	9,628	19,863	9,628	217,323	211,631
Total Overall Received	106,685	354,630	462,798	354,630	1,733,510	1,701,002
Total Overall Distributed	77,312	132,145	160,411	132,145	1,940,785	1,639,708

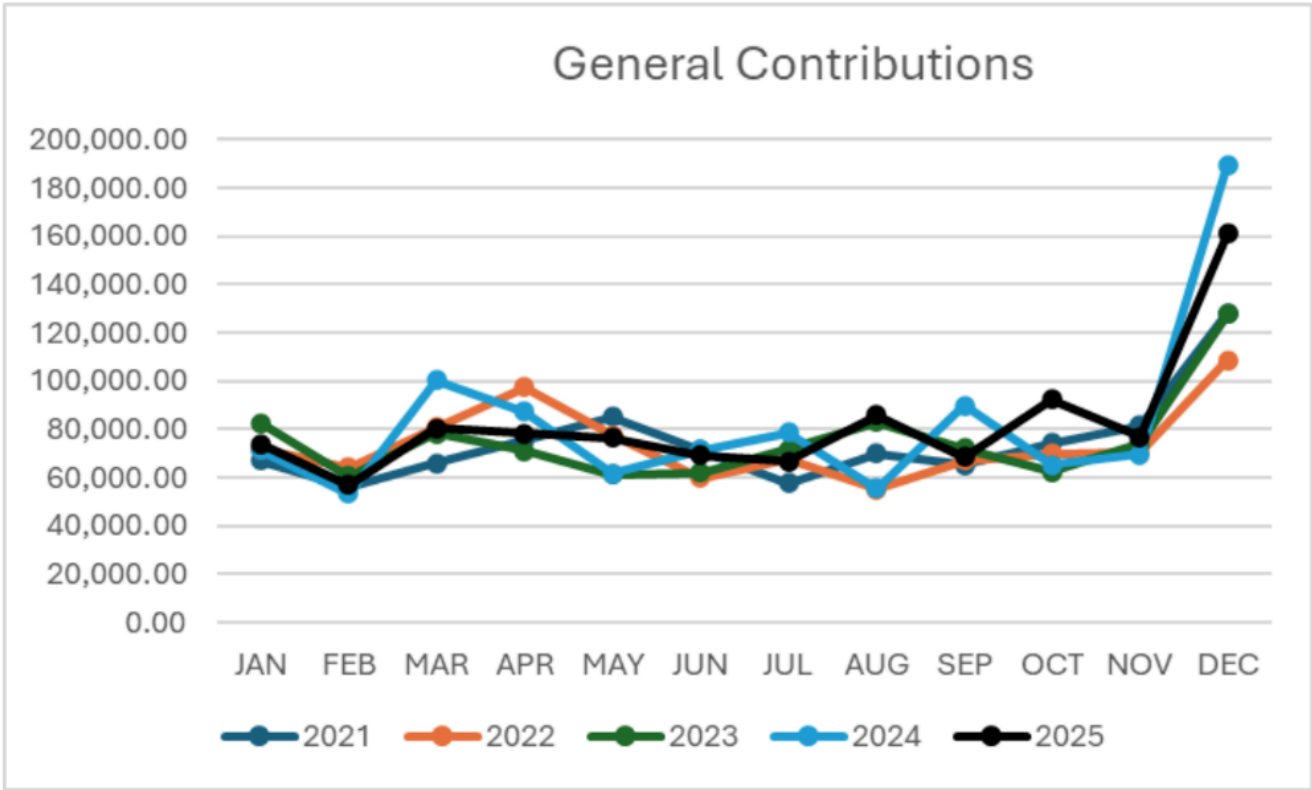
### Apportionments - 2025

	October	November	December
	Paid in December	Pay in December	Pay in January
Pastor Direct-Billed	2,940	2,940	2,940
District Mission Apportionment (set by conference)	138	138	138
Conference consideration (10% of contributions)	9,248	7,690	16,095

<b>Certificate of Deposit</b>					<i>maturity date</i>
Van	\$20,000	11 months	4.21%		2/21/2026
\$ a Week Grants	\$3,000	11 months	4.21%		2/21/2026
<b>Endowments</b>					
AR Community Foundation - Maint	\$			<i>Balance</i>	<i>Available to Grant</i>
AR Community Foundation - Diggs Child/Youth	\$			\$ 203,967.58	\$ 12,566.00
Methodist Foundation for Arkansas - Diggs General Ministry	\$			\$ 155,487.38	
Georgia Wright Scholarship				\$ 73,211.18	
<i>Centennial Bank Savings</i>	137091810			10,637.15	
<i>Centennial Bank Time Deposit</i>	136979621			2,059.57	<i>(next maturity date is 6/10/25)</i>
<b>Loan</b>					
	<b>Project Total:</b>	\$5,976,073 <i>(beginning Jan 2018)</i>		3.95% Interest	
Original Loan	\$	3,735,613		7.25% new rate effective 3/18/25	
Principal Paid	\$	1,829,298		6.25% adjusted rate Dec 2025	
Principal Remaining	\$	1,906,365			

**ACTION ITEM: TRANSFER PAYMENT TO LOAN**

## General Contributions



	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
2012	63,934	49,175	48,456	73,732	50,830	45,943	58,654	49,941	45,041	40,254	41,289	120,334
2013	59,387	46,375	72,371	57,246	50,321	53,479	56,847	47,295	64,253	49,791	53,398	135,594
2014	60,270	70,683	75,497	82,518	74,331	69,473	60,346	64,708	54,022	70,950	81,395	128,759
2015	67,896	48,611	65,642	72,025	82,374	68,441	73,622	72,478	56,500	115,391	85,334	110,104
2016	64,412	81,966	74,540	62,148	88,780	67,438	88,595	79,376	70,192	70,428	67,137	115,319
2017	83,454	67,262	59,601	99,981	60,981	69,045	77,957	62,299	58,963	72,094	75,115	126,351
2018	65,894	58,481	70,511	85,169	59,139	66,337	87,783	78,099	72,978	91,506	56,782	117,024
2019	68,647	69,449	101,289	69,983	60,912	79,529	58,472	68,479	79,945	69,679	64,507	114,532
2020	75,751	62,905	83,047	65,964	70,143	62,308	58,734	56,251	63,858	58,073	60,911	124,621
2021	67,045	56,412	65,952	75,527	85,007	71,521	57,785	70,181	65,207	74,359	81,691	128,255
2022	71,721	64,127	88,688	97,512	77,639	60,028	67,901	55,029	66,994	70,032	70,309	108,813
2023	82,716	60,760	78,289	70,942	61,265	61,952	71,721	82,858	72,023	62,340	74,151	127,953
2024	71,558	53,568	100,407	87,488	61,698	71,601	78,531	55,487	89,997	65,365	69,746	189,478
2025	74,075	57,044	80,554	78,418	76,346	69,378	66,775	85,839	68,634	92,480	76,896	160,972

## 7. 2026 BUDGET

A/C	LINE ITEM	2025 BUDGET	2025 ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE	2026 BUDGET PROPOSAL
	LOCAL CHURCH BUILDINGS				
701	Church Maintenance	50,000.00	50,478.86	(478.86)	60,000.00
702	Parsonage (320 W Main)	1,500.00	2,177.84	(677.84)	1,500.00
703	Parsonage (417 W Main)	3,000.00	3,703.09	(703.09)	6,000.00
704	Property/Auto Insurance	66,100.00	68,744.56	(2,644.56)	75,000.00
706	Transportation/Vans	4,000.00	1,207.46	2,792.54	4,250.00
707	Parsonage (102 Cypress)	8,000.00	40,470.64	(32,470.64)	8,000.00
		132,600.00	166,782.45		154,750.00
	PROGRAMS				
710	Education	15,000.00	16,101.88	(1,101.88)	15,000.00
711	Other Adult Ministry	100.00	3,969.37	(3,869.37)	3,500.00
712	Youth Ministry - 7th-12th	15,000.00	11,801.21	3,198.79	15,000.00
713	Children's Ministry	4,500.00	3,161.81	1,338.19	4,500.00
715	Vacation Bible School	5,000.00	2,537.34	2,462.66	5,000.00
716	First Core (Young Adults)	-			
720	Music Ministries	9,500.00	9,344.78	155.22	9,500.00
725	Worship (candles, communion supplies, acolyte supplies, etc.)	3,000.00	2,422.24	577.76	3,000.00
727	Music - Choir Scholarship (college students singing in choir)				
729	Hospitality (first time visitor gifts, donuts, etc)	5,000.00	6,337.82	(1,337.82)	6,500.00
730	Outreach/Evangelism/Missions	3,500.00	840.31	2,659.69	3,500.00
731	Witt House	15,000.00	12,285.83	2,714.17	15,000.00
740	Advertising/Technology/Comm	25,000.00	17,702.95	7,297.05	22,500.00
		100,600.00	86,505.54		103,000.00
	GENERAL EXPENSE				
771	Office Supplies	8,000.00	11,425.81	(3,425.81)	10,000.00
772	Postage	2,000.00	1,898.03	101.97	2,000.00
773	Equipment Repair or Replace	1,500.00	1,863.39	(363.39)	2,000.00
775	Lights/Water	95,000.00	87,518.19	7,481.81	95,000.00
776	Summtt (Centerpoint)	10,000.00	8,036.57	1,963.43	10,000.00
777	Telephone/Internet	3,000.00	3,109.83	(109.83)	3,250.00
778	Copier	6,500.00	6,070.09	429.91	6,500.00
779	Kitchen & Cleaning Supplies	5,000.00	4,689.90	310.10	5,250.00
790	Professional Services (accountant)	1,800.00	1,820.00	(20.00)	1,900.00
799	Miscellaneous Expense		1,531.81	(1,531.81)	
		132,800.00	127,963.62		135,900.00
	STAFF				

	Pastor's Salaries				
801	Senior Pastor	106,156.00	106,267.92		109,060.00
802	Senior Pastor Housing	6,000.00	6,000.00		6,000.00
803	Senior Pastor Prof Expense Reimbursed	4,500.00	4,500.00		4,500.00
805	Senior Pastor Pension	18,000.00	18,000.00		19,000.00
811	Associate Salary	54,959.00	54,959.04		56,608.00
812	Associate Housing	6,000.00	6,000.00		6,180.00
813	Associate Prof Expense Reimbursed	2,500.00	2,118.54		2,500.00
815	Associate Pension	10,457.00	10,456.92		10,770.00
	Support Staff				
780	Custodial Outsource (JanPro)	23,000.00	22,929.12	70.88	23,000.00
850	SS WH and State Tax	18,000.00	17,577.83		18,000.00
860	Annual Conference Expense (Lay members)	1,000.00	120.24		1,000.00
861	Continuing Education				
862	Civic Club	1,500.00	720.00		1,500.00
		485,734.00	481,891.30		498,299.00
	APPORTIONMENTS				
901	Direct Billed Pension	34,500.00	34,761.48		36,000.00
902	Tithe Initiative	95,500.00	101,592.24		95,500.00
903	District Mission Apportionment (Wesley)	1,645.00	1,649.50		1,650.00
		131,645.00	138,003.22		133,150.00
	CONNECTIONAL BENEVOLENCES				
965	Emergency Benevolence				
	Sub-Total	983,379.00	1,001,146.13		1,025,099.00
	BUILDING LOAN				
709	Building loan interest	180,000.00	109,670.26		180,000.00
710	Building loan principal	150,000.00	510,000.00		150,000.00
	TOTAL	1,313,379.00	1,620,816.39		1,355,099.00

## 8. NEXT 100 YEARS / DEBT REDUCTION

“Next 100 Years” “debt reduction” campaign (May of 2022) included 3 emphases.

- a. Sanctuary sound/video/streaming improvements came in at budget (\$50k) and the exterior stained glass work below budget (\$27k). **COMPLETE AUGUST '25.**
- b. Convert first floor into an office suite. This project was finished on budget (~\$200k). **COMPLETE AUGUST '23.**
- c. Pay down debt.
  - a. Original building cost ~\$6million. 2019 Construction loan closed at \$3.7million. Jan. 2026 remaining loan principal is \$1.9million. Monthly interest payments, annual principal payments, and additional principal payments when possible.
  - b. Original 5-over-20 year note interest rate was updated in March '25 going from 3.95% to 7.25%. Negotiated rate down to 6.25% in December of 2025.
  - c. Sanctuary cornerstone is dated 1925 and the first worship service was held in November 1926. Meaning FUMC will celebrate worshiping at this location for 100 years in late 2026. We will give thanks for the 100 years behind us and look forward to the “Next 100 Years” at Fourth & Main.
  - d. Our church hoped the Next 100 Years Capital Campaign would culminate at year end 2026 when we celebrate our centennial. This was always a challenging goal, but we are making great progress.

## 9. FACILITIES UPDATE & NEEDS

### a. ONGOING

- a. Curbs & Sidewalks. Adam Followell (Paragould Public Works) met at FUMC 5/7/25 - City of Paragould will likely overlay both Fourth and Main Streets this year including repairing broken curbs. After this work is complete, FUMC would move ahead with sidewalk/concrete repairs. No date/quote.
- b. Roberts McNutt Roofing & Waterproofing
  - i. Ongoing Water Damage Organ Side Rear Sanctuary. Full rebuild June 2024. More repairs made 6/4/25. Discussed at in-person meeting 11/4/25. Potential Warranty Claim.
  - ii. Water damage first floor. Repairs made 2/14/25 but unsuccessful. Inspected 4/3/25. Worked 5/8/25. Worked at FUMC 5/25/25. Seems to be better. TBD. Will need to do paint/sheetrock repairs.
  - iii. Basement quote \$50k. Reviewed in-person 11/4/25.
- c. Redeemers Inc. Basement repair (Memphis) visited FUMC 9/9/25 Quote \$40k for limited waterproofing & pumps

### b. OTHER

- a. Redo fence between Gym & Playground for child safety. \$2800 quote.
- b. Request from Hospitality/Security add cameras inside/outside Sanctuary
- c. Update Chapel to be more usable (Dane)
- d. Parking Lot Seal & Stripe (correlated to sidewalk work above?)
- e. HVAC improvements (mini-splits?) Chapel & Youth Room (OMP 2026)
- f. Improve signage (Exterior LED sign, interior room numbers, campus maps)
- g. Low-entry bus that does not require CDL
- h. Stained ceiling tiles outside courtyard

## 10. 2026 KEY DATES (SUBJECT TO CHANGES/ADDITIONS)

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### JANUARY

Jan. 4 - Epiphany Sunday

Jan. 11 - Baptism of the Lord Sunday / 2pm All-Staff Meeting / 3pm Leadership Orientation Council Meeting / 6pm Confirmation

Jan 18 10am Coffee w/ Pastors / 6pm Confirmation

Jan. 18 - Feb. 1: Stewardship campaign: A Future With Hope

Jan. 21 - April 29 CONNECT WEDNESDAY

Jan. 25 4:30pm Wesley Heritage Tour Meeting / 6pm Confirmation

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### FEBRUARY

Feb. 1 6pm Confirmation

Feb. 8 SOUPer Bowl Sunday

Feb. 15 SPRC 3pm, Finance 4pm, Trustees 5pm / 6pm Confirmation

Feb. 18 Ash Wednesday Noon & 6pm Sanctuary

Feb. 21 Galentine's with guest Amy Hannon

Feb. 22 OMP Sunday / 6pm Confirmation

Feb. 27-March 1 YOUTH @ Veritas (Fort Smith)

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### MARCH

Mar. 1 3pm Discipleship CoOp / 4:30pm All-Staff Meeting / 6pm Confirmation

Mar. 8 Dollar Per Week Sunday / SPRC 3pm, Finance 4pm, Trustees 5pm / 6pm Confirmation

Mar. 15 10am Presentation on "Promise for Haiti" by Omer Shedd M.D. / 6pm Confirmation

Mar 23 - 27 Spring Break

Mar 29 Palm/Passion Sunday

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### APRIL

April 2 Maundy Thursday 6pm Worship Center

April 3 Good Friday Noon & 6pm Sanctuary

April 4 Holy Saturday (Egg Hunt)

April 5 Easter Sunday

April 12 Confirmation Sunday

April 19 4pm SPRC Meeting / 5pm Methodist Foundation for Arkansas "Legacy Seminar"; 6:30pm MFA Account Review w/ Finance & Trustees

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### MAY

May 3 Senior Sunday / 5pm Council Meeting

May 10 Mother's Day

May 24 One Service Sunday 10am Worship Center

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### JUNE

June 7 3pm Discipleship CoOp / 4:30pm All-Staff Meeting

June 14 SPRC 3pm, Finance 4pm, Trustees 5pm

June 21 Father's Day

June 21-26 FUMC host Ozark Mission Project

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## **JULY**

July 5 One Service Sunday 10am Sanctuary

July 8 - 16 FUMC Wesley Heritage Tour of England

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## **AUGUST**

Aug 9 Back to School Sunday / SPRC 3pm, Finance 4pm, Trustees 5pm

Aug 23 3pm Discipleship CoOp / 4:30pm All-Staff Meeting

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## **SEPTEMBER**

Sept 6 One Service Sunday 10am Worship Center

Sept 13 Third Grade Bible Sunday / SPRC 3pm, Finance 4pm, Trustees 5pm

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## **OCTOBER**

Date TBD Council/Charge Conference

Oct. 25 Trunk-Treat (?Halloween following Saturday Oct. 31)

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## **NOVEMBER**

Nov 8 3pm Discipleship CoOp / 4:30pm All-Staff Meeting

Nov 15 SPRC 3pm, Finance 4pm, Trustees 5pm

Sanctuary Centennial Celebration? (first service Sanctuary Nov. 21, 1926)

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## **DECEMBER**

Details TBD

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## **OTHER TBD**

VBS, Ready Set Read, OMP101, Guys Getaway, Women's Retreat, Organ Recital, etc

## 11. RELIGIOUS LANDSCAPE

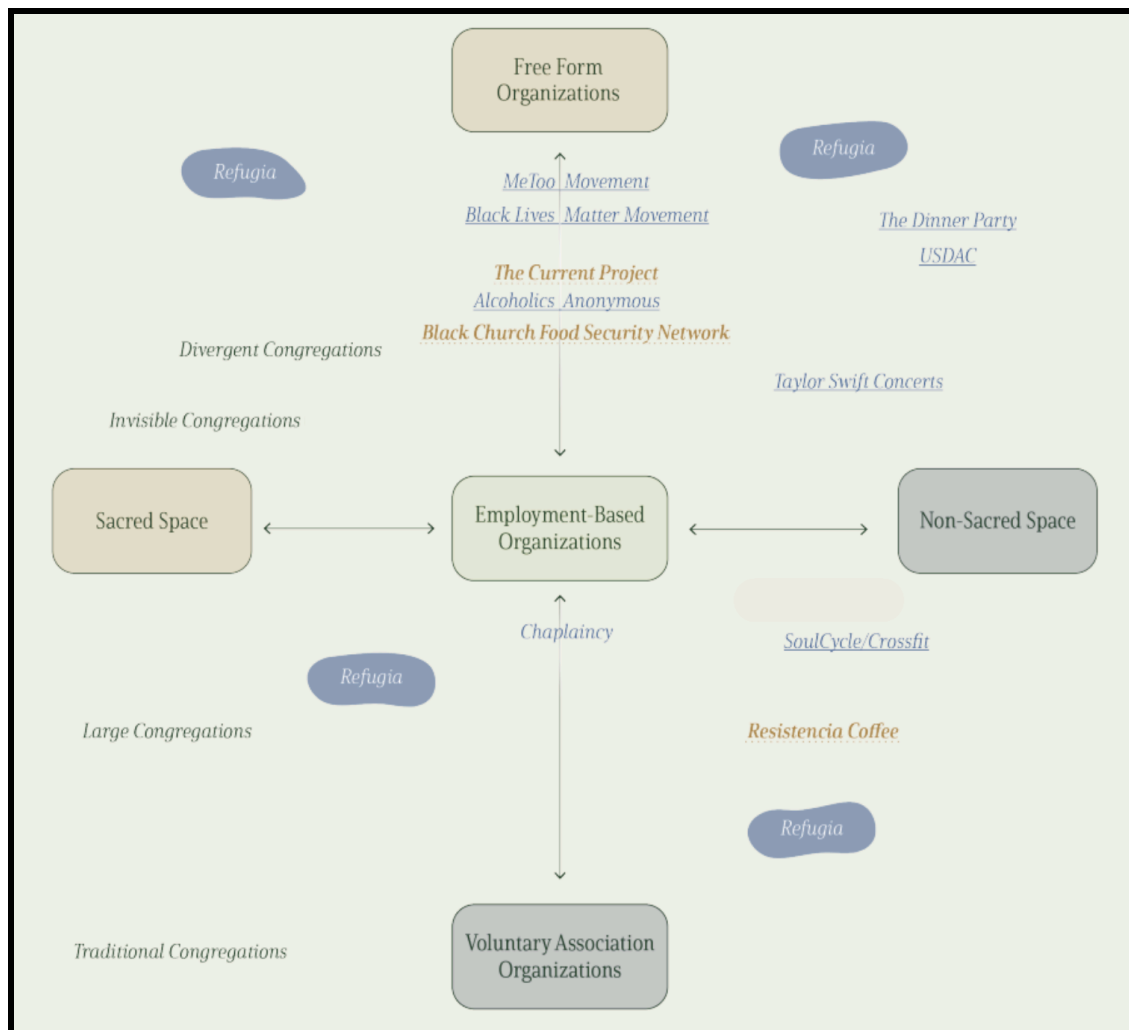
Adapted from “REIMAGINING AND REMAPPING THE RELIGIOUS LANDSCAPE: Chaos Before a New Ordering” by Gil Rendle<sup>2</sup>

### A. Overview & Central Argument

- a. Gil Rendle challenges the dominant narrative that church decline tells the full story of religion in contemporary society.
- b. He proposes that the apparent **chaos** in religious life is actually the beginning of a new ordering on the religious landscape.
- c. Instead of focusing on attendance and membership, he urges a deeper question: **Where are people finding meaning, belonging, and purpose today?**

### B. A New Map of the Religious Landscape

- a. Rendle sketches a conceptual “map” defined by two axes:
  - i. Sacred vs. non-sacred space
  - ii. Structured institutions vs. free-form movements.



<sup>2</sup><https://wesleyanimpactpartners.org/uploads/docs/Learning-and-Innovation/LI-Publications/Gil-Rendle-Re-imagining-and-Re-mapping-the-New-Religious-Landscape.pdf>

- C. On this terrain, a wide variety of spiritual forms exist, including:
  - a. **Traditional congregations**, with familiar structures and practices.
  - b. **Megachurches and staff-driven organizations** that resemble corporate entities more than classic parishes.
  - c. **Neighborhood-embedded congregations** focused on local context and relationships.
  - d. **Invisible churches** and corporate chaplaincies serving specific communities.
  - e. **“Desire paths”**—unofficial spiritual routes people follow outside planned religious structures.
- D. Four Patterns in the New Religious Landscape
  - a. **Unbundling**: People are remixing elements of spiritual life—community, ritual, justice, transformation—across multiple settings rather than depending on a single congregation. This reflects a shift from fixed institutional engagement to distributed spiritual practices drawn from diverse experiences.
  - b. **Movements**: Collective experiences and social formations (e.g., 12-Step groups, social justice movements, cultural phenomena like large concerts) provide story, ritual, identity, belonging, and shared meaning for participants. These movements may not be explicitly religious but function as meaning-making communities.
  - c. **Entrepreneurs**: Individuals and groups are creating spaces for community and spiritual engagement outside traditional institutions, such as housing initiatives, neighborhood cafés, digital platforms, justice-oriented projects, and other innovations. These initiatives blend sacred concerns with everyday life needs, often outside designated “church” settings.
  - d. **Refugia**: Small, safe spaces where faith takes root quietly and organically—such as friendship groups, house churches, and online communities. These refuges serve as nurturing grounds for spiritual life amid the complexity and flux of the broader landscape.
- E. Practical Implications for Leaders
  - a. **Traditional voluntary-association church models are increasingly fragile and insufficient in meeting people’s spiritual needs.**
  - b. **Larger churches may focus on staffing and organizational complexity, but neighborhoods and local contexts are emerging as the primary arenas of change and encounter.**
  - c. **Leaders must be intentional and clear in articulating their Christian identity, distinguishing it from political or consumer cultural identities that can easily become conflated with faith.**
  - d. **Rather than defending old institutional maps, leaders are called to notice and engage the new terrain, support emerging forms of spiritual life, and experiment boldly with new practices and partnerships.**
- F. Hopeful Vision
  - a. **Rendle’s most hopeful message is that God’s presence is not absent in the chaos—new forms of meaning-making are emerging everywhere, even where they don’t look like traditional church.**
  - b. **The task for faith communities is to attend to this evolving landscape, nurture small formations of renewal, and courageously participate in God’s ongoing work of reordering spiritual life.**

## QUOTES:

- a. "What if the decline of the church isn't the whole story? What if the chaos we see is actually the beginning of a new ordering of religious life?"
- b. "When we change the lens from congregational survival to human meaning-making, the religious landscape looks far more alive—and far more complex—than many assume."
- c. "...people stitch together spiritual practices from yoga studios, fitness communities, justice movements, or online groups."
- d. "...traditional voluntary-association models are fragile; larger churches are learning to staff up; neighborhoods are once again the primary unit of change..."
- e. "The most hopeful message is that God is not absent in the chaos."
- f. "...our task is not to shore up the old maps, but to pay attention to the new terrain, nurture small refuges of renewal, and experiment boldly for the sake of the gospel."

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. Where do you already see "desire paths" in your community—unofficial routes where people pursue meaning outside church walls?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Which unbundled theme—community, transformation, justice, creativity, purpose, accountability—does your congregation embody best? Which might you grow into?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What local entrepreneurs or invisible ministries could your church bless or partner with?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What "refugia" could you nurture: a small, safe space for faith to root and renew in your context?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. How would you describe your church's Christian identity in a way that is clear, compelling, and distinct from political or cultural labels?

## 12. NOTES FROM REV DANE

- a. Reminder: FUMC needs to be consistent in Safe Gatherings & Building Use Policies
- b. Lessons learned from guest events last Fall (Comedian Bates, Author Thompson, Organist MacKnight)
- c. Pastor Sarah continues to take lead on Pastoral Care
- d. Pastoral focus on Children, Youth, Young Adults
- e. Prioritize staff development & growth
- f. Facilities/Finances
  - i. Debt reduction continues
  - ii. Increase annual budget maintenance and/or maintenance endowment. Maintenance requirements/opportunities are significant/costly.
  - iii. Educate mature givers on long-term plans/options/needs
  - iv. Grow beginning & mid-level givers
  - v. Potential 2026 Worship/Music related expenses not in budget: (1) Choir Robes (2) Paise Band instruments/equipment
- g. FUMC is in a season of transition (leadership, volunteers, giving)
- h. FUMC's next season. 2026 Mission; Vision; Strategy; Short/Long-term plan