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CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING | MAY 3, 2026

1. WELCOME & CALL TO PRAYER

Psalm 31:1-5

<sup>1</sup> In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;

**deliver me in your righteousness.**

<sup>2</sup> Incline your ear to me;

**make haste to deliver me.**

<sup>3</sup> Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold;

**for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.**

<sup>4</sup> Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,

**for you are my tower of strength.**

<sup>5</sup> Into your hands I commend my spirit,

**for you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth.**

**Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

2. CALL TO ORDER - Gene Weeks (Church Council Chair)

*current members of the Church Council may vote ATTACHED*

3. ~~SPRC REPORT - Dale Schenk (Cmte Chair) N/A~~

4. FINANCIAL REPORT ATTACHED - Shani Barnhill (Cmte Chair)

5. TRUSTEES REPORT ATTACHED - Shelia Ragsdale (Cmte Chair)

6. MINISTRY AREAS/UPDATES

- a. Children's Ministry (Angela Newby); Youth Ministry (Mary Hickox); Missions/Witt House (Tracy Finch); Hospitality (Nancy Cupp); Outreach (Robin Patten); Women's Ministry (Tori Thompson); Other?
- b. Assoc. Pastor's Report
- c. Upcoming Ministry ATTACHED
- d. Sr Pastor's Report ATTACHED

7. OTHER BUSINESS

8. ADJOURN

FUMC 2026 CHURCH COUNCIL

<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:	Shelia Ragsdell	
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, 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 Snyder
Tim Roswell	Carolyn Moreland	Madeline Cupp
Victoria Thompson (youth)	Riley Pearson (youth)	Bella Ellzey (youth)

## TRUSTEES REPORT

1. Recently Complete
  - a. Sod outside Worship Center & chat at Witt House
  - b. 102 Cypress Pt 1st floor HVAC \$17k
  - c. Replaced ceiling tile in courtyard following snow/water damage
  - d. Wood Masonry replaced rotted wood w/ concrete block in courtyard \$4k
2. Ongoing & Upcoming
  - a. Curbs & Sidewalks & Parking Lots
    - i. City of Paragould preparing to overlay Main Street including curb repairs. No update on 4th street.
    - ii. FUMC has met with multiple contractors about sidewalk & sanctuary stair repairs following city paving. No quotes.
    - iii. Sanctuary handrails TBD.
    - iv. Parking Lot Seal & Stripe needed. No quote.
  - b. Trustees & Angela consider removing wall between 5th/6th rooms. TBD.
  - c. The Glass Shop preparing quote for replacing courtyard broken glass.
  - d. Roberts McNutt Roofing & Waterproofing: Water Damage Organ Side Rear Sanctuary. Back & Forth.
  - e. HVAC
    - i. Youth & Children's Areas: Recently working with Trane. Multiple small repairs complete. Researching controls issues.
    - ii. Worship Center RTU2 condenser motor being replaced by Trane \$3,500.

## UPCOMING MINISTRIES

1. May 4 Women's Book Club
2. May 5 Men's breakfast
3. May 9 10am Ladies' Tea / May 10 Mother's Day
4. May 14-16 Paragould Loose Caboose - FUMC Race Shuttle
5. May 17 Miracle Sunday for Theological Education
6. May 24 One Service Sunday Sanctuary 10am & Senior Sunday
7. May 25 FUMC Offices Closed
8. May 31 3pm Discipleship CoOp; 4pm All-Staff Meeting
9. June 4 -6 Guys Getaway Mt. Eagle & Buffalo River
10. June 7-10 VBS
11. June 14 SPRC 3pm, Finance 4pm, Trustees 5pm
12. June 15-17 ARUMC Annual Conference
13. June 15-19 Ready Set READ
14. June 21 Father's Day
15. June 21-26 FUMC host OMP
16. July 5 One Service Sunday 10am Worship Center
17. July 8 - 16 Wesley Heritage Tour England trip
18. July 20-24 ARUMC Youth Assembly
19. July 27-29 OMP101 rising 5th & 6th graders
20. TBD Waterpark Party
21. TBD Youth Back to School Trip
22. TBD Back to School Sunday (PSD starts Aug. 6. GCT starts Aug. 12.)
23. Aug 9 SPRC 3pm, Finance 4pm, Trustees 5pm
24. Aug 23 3pm Discipleship CoOp; 4:30pm All-Staff Meeting

SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT

**A. Attendance:**

- a. 2025
  - i. Q1: 8am - 27; 9am - 145; 11am - 102; Total - 274
  - ii. Q4: 8am - 28; 9am - 151; 11am - 97; Total - 271
  - iii. Easter Sunday: 8am - 29; 9am - 203; 11am - 209; Total - 441
- b. 2026
  - i. Q1: 8am - 27; 9am - 161; 11am - 107; Total - 295
  - ii. Easter Sunday: 8am - 41; 9am - 241; 11am - 230; Total - 512

**B. Music Ministry Needs & Forthcoming Campaign**

- a. Chancel Choir robes
- b. Worship Center instruments, tablets, & camera

**C. ACTION ITEM** - Crete Rhodes nominated to fill % '27 vacancy on Staff Parish Relations Cmte

Staff-Parish Relations Committee		
Class of '26:	Class of '27:	Class of '28:
Linda Futrell	Crete Rhodes	Matt Jackson
Dale Schenk (Chair)	Wes Watts	Robin Patten
Rona Waits	Jennifer Harper	Denise Clift
Ex officio w/ vote: Lay Leader/Member to A	Tracy Brengard (25-26)	
Ex officio w/ vote: Lay Member to AC:	Gene Weeks	

**D. Sanctuary Centennial Planning Cmte:** Tracy Finch, Tracy Brengard, Karoline Risker, Denise Chipman, Bob Branch (First service FUMC Sanctuary Nov. 21, 1926)

**E. Mission, Vision & Values Cmte:** Rev. Dane, Gene Weeks, Tracy Brengard, Dale Schenk, Shani Barnhill, Robin Patten, Yong Ko, Debbie DaVault, Brock Wooldridge, Mauri Rogers, Riley Pearson, Victoria Thompson

**F. Future Witt House Facility Research Cmte:** Jim Jackson, Judy Dacus (Trustee), Mike Finch, Martha McCain, Joe Barnett, John Dodd (Trustee)

**G. Childcare at FUMC Research Cmte:** Danelle Rogers, Abbey Rogers, Lanie Mangrum, Caroline Schenk, Vicki Shelby, Angela Newby

Adapted from “From Vision to Action: Adaptive Planning for Uncertain Times”<sup>1</sup>

### **Ditch One: Vision Without Execution**

We cast compelling vision. We talk about becoming a church that transforms the community, makes disciples, welcomes the stranger, lives generously. It sounds beautiful. It feels inspiring. And then Monday comes and you're back to fixing the boiler, managing the church council conflict, and wondering why nobody signed up for the small group launch.

### **Ditch Two: Tactical Clarity Without Vision**

Or we go the other direction. We skip the vision work because it feels like navel-gazing. We just do things. We launch programs because other churches are launching programs. We say yes to everything because we don't have criteria for saying no. We're busy. We're exhausted. And when someone asks, "Why are we doing this?" we don't have a good answer beyond "we've always done it" or "It seemed like a good idea at the time."

### **Insight: The Strategic Cascade for Churches**

1. What is God calling us to become? (*Your Compelling Vision*)
2. Where will we focus? (*Your Ministry Arena*)
3. How will we win? (*Your Distinctive Approach*)
4. What do we actually need? (*Your Essential Capabilities*)
5. How will we know we're on track? (*Your Quarterly Priorities*)

This is where adaptive planning becomes real. Instead of trying to predict five years out, ask: What do we need to accomplish this quarter to move toward our vision? Not everything. Just the next right things. Then assess: Did we do it? What did we learn? What needs to adjust? And then you set the next quarter's priorities—still guided by the vision, but adapting based on what you're learning.

### **Making It Work**

Here's how this actually cascades in practice: Your vision is your North Star—it rarely changes. Your focus might shift every 2-3 years as you learn what's working. Your approach adjusts as you discover what's distinctive about your context. Your quarterly priorities are always shifting based on what you learn.

### **Direction and Flexibility**

Vision without execution is just dreaming. Execution without vision is just exhausting. But adaptive planning—the kind that connects compelling vision to executable quarterly priorities—gives you both direction and flexibility. You don't need to know the five-year plan. You need to know where you're headed and what you're doing this quarter to get there. That's not lack of faith. That's wisdom.

### **Start With One Quarter**

Try it for one quarter. Set 1-2 priorities. See what happens. You might find that uncertainty becomes less paralyzing when you stop trying to predict the future and start creating a framework for navigating it.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://ministrymatters.com/2026-01-07\\_from\\_vision\\_to\\_action\\_adaptive\\_planning\\_for\\_uncertain\\_times/](https://ministrymatters.com/2026-01-07_from_vision_to_action_adaptive_planning_for_uncertain_times/)