

First United Methodist Church Little Rock

Leadership Council Meeting

June 23, 2026

Present: Harvey Wiley, Jim Wohlleb, Elaine Bultena, Juanita Woodard, Stark Ligon, Debbie Boyd, (Zoom) Laine Harber, Jessica Keith, Kelly Jackson

David Freeman, Sonja Taylor-Larkowski, Harold Wesley

Guest: Rebecca Dwyer-Coop

Chair Kelly Jackson led the group in reading the church's mission statement. David Freeman offered a prayer. Kelly asked for a motion to approve minutes of the special council meeting May 4 and the regular meeting May 19. Juanita Woodard made a motion and Elaine Bultena seconded. All members approved.

Rebecca Dwyer-Coop, the new executive director of Gertrude Remmel Butler Child Development Center, introduced herself to the Leadership Council members. She gave her educational and employment experience. She reviewed the origin of the CDC. The CDC has operated for over 50 years. It is licensed for 407 children ages, infants, toddlers and school age (after school) and is open throughout the year.

Harold Wesley, director of buildings, grounds, and security reported that the parking lots repair and paving projects are completed. The sanctuary windows project is complete except for side windows with \$1,500 remaining to be paid. Repairs for the air conditioning cost more than was expected - \$10,000. The five-year pipe inspection for the fire control sprinkler system was conducted. Wesley engaged a company to determine where leaks were originating in the roof. Drone photos showed places in the sanctuary roof where shingles were missing. It will be necessary to repair only damaged sections, not the entire roof, at a cost of \$1,900.

Wesley's staff are having to pick up trash left by patrons of the event center on 7th Street.

David Freeman explained the procedure the church uses for outside groups requesting use of our building. We do not charge a nonprofit group or a church, but we charge for-profit groups. We cannot allow partisan groups to use our building. Stark Ligon said the Leadership Council should be the policy making authority for building usage. Sonja Taylor-Larkowski will send the existing documents for outside group usage to the Leadership Council members.

Sonja Taylor-Larkowski, director of finance and administration, reported that the church ended May with a year-to-date net loss of \$9,012. We had budgeted for a net loss of \$130,000 but our income was up and our expenses were down, which resulted in a much lower net loss year-to-date through the end of May.

Sonja needs approval for an additional \$10,000 for extra paving work between the CDC and the parking lot and \$3,000 for the actuator valve for the air conditioning and heating system. The trustees had approved using the perpetual endowment spending fund to pay for the repair and replacement of the actuator valve that controls the air conditioning and heating system in the sanctuary. The cost was estimated to be around \$7,000 but the bill was \$10,000. Sonja asked the board to approve the extra \$3,000 to cover this expense from the perpetual endowment spending account. Kelly made a motion and Juanita seconded the motion to pay a total of \$13,000 from the perpetual endowment spending fund. All members raised their hands for a unanimous vote.

Elaine made a motion and Kelly seconded to approve the financial statement. All approved.

David thanked the group for the potluck held to say goodbye to Brittany Richardson Watson. Sean Dunbar has started his job. James Stanley will celebrate ten years with the church in July and there will be an acknowledgement. At the recent annual conference, all FUMCLR pastoral appointments were approved.

David reminded the members that he is in conversation with staff on initiatives such as a center for senior care, a center for sacred arts, a center for youth and children ministries and community engagement ministries.

Kelly adjourned the meeting and David prayed.

Debbie Boyd

Secretary