

7/21/2026 Leadership Council Meeting Minutes

Leadership Council Attendance: Chair Kelly Jackson, Jim Wohlleb, Harvey Wiley, Elaine Bultena, Stark Ligon, Colin Gorman, Jessica Keith / Zoom – Juanita Woodard, Laine Harber

Staff Attendance: Rev. Heather Rose, Sean Dunbar, Sonja Taylor-Larkowski, Harold Wesley, James Stanley, Shannon Webb / Zoom – Lesley Andrews

Prayer and Song

Chair Kelly Jackson called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM and requested that James Stanley open the meeting with prayer and song. James led the Leadership Council in a song.

Approval of June 2026 Meeting Minutes

The Council discussed the June Minutes. Jim made the motion to approve and Harvey seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Finance and Stewardship Report

Sonja Taylor-Larkowski presented the June 2026 financials which were emailed to the Leadership Council in advance via email by Chair Kelly Jackson on July 16, 2026. A corrected Designated Income Statement was emailed by Sonja on July 20, 2026. The Council discussed the financials.

Juanita suggested numbering the financials going forward as a point of reference during the meeting. Sonja said she can compile the financials, number them manually, scan them into a single PDF, and provide a single file to the Council members. The Council agreed this would be helpful.

Elaine made a motion to accept the June 2026 Financials as presented. Harvey seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Buildings and Grounds Report

Harold Wesley presented the Building and Grounds Report. Harold informed the Council that the elevator contract ended and a new contract was obtained with a different company. The company came out to assess the elevators and found an issue with the elevator in the Sanctuary. The cost to repair the elevator is \$3,934.58, which will replace the hydraulic jacks. Sonja informed the Council that the repair is not budgeted.

Jim made a motion to use the Perpetual Endowment Fund to repair the elevator, up to \$4,000. Juanita seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Harold continued his report and said there were no issues with any of the other elevators that were inspected. He also obtained a quote for a complete roof repair if needed in the future. He informed the window restoration is complete.

Chair Kelly Jackson discussed a task force on building use guidelines, as discussed in the June meeting. Kelly advised that Eliane and Laine will be the Leadership Council members on the taskforce. Eliane said they will meet in August to discuss.

Hospitality and Belonging Report

Rev. Heather Rose informed the Leadership Council of upcoming church events planned. There will be a Fall Retreat in Morrilton with other churches. This was held last year and was successful. Brunch Bunch begins in August and will be held on the first Monday of each month at 10:00 am. Rev. Heather said Brunch Bunch is an opportunity to expand engagement with the senior community. There will be light food, and each month will alternate between learning and games. Rev. Heather informed the Council that MOFA had fun at the baseball game and Project Transformation also had the opportunity to attend the game thanks to a generous donor. Project Transformation concludes at the end of July and has been a fun experience. Rev. Heather informed that the Young Adults had a lunch and 12 young adults attended. Create and Conversate on Wednesdays will be happening two times a month. This is a space for women of different generations to create together and have conversations. Rev. Heather said she is looking for opportunities to serve those in the community who cannot leave their homes and would like to receive communion.

Community Engagement and Service Report

Rev. Haley Jones Wells was absent. Chair Kelly Jackson provided her report:

Faith and advocacy continue to grow as we focus on immigration justice, food justice, and voter registrations. We are just about 100 days away from voting day and we will be amping up communications on the importance of voting/UMC History/living faithfully involved. Café has seen an increase in neighbors due to heat 65-80 neighbors per day. Serve Saturday: Trash Bash is August 1st and we have invited neighboring churches to join us. Serve Saturday: Habitat for Humanity is Sept 5th. We will make our donation to Providence Park tiny home and send invitations to join us for the picture. New donation page going up for Communion Fund which will help provide visibility into what we do with that money and all the ministries it supports. Aug 16th is the pancake breakfast for Backpacks for Kids ministry, sponsoring weekend food bags for children. Green Team is being built to help us be better stewards of our resources and more involved in creation care, climate justice. We just took a trip to the Little Rock Recycling Center.

Music and Worship Arts Report

James Stanley presented his report. James informed that The Gospel According to Broadway season is well underway. Choir starts back in August. Shannon is repairing choir robes and servicing the handbells as a summer project. Shannon is also gearing up for First Arts when school starts back. James informed the Council that there is artwork currently hanging in the hallway. This will be a rotating gallery of members' art and will change approximately every 3 months.

Children and Youth Ministry Report

Sean Dunbar presented his report. Sean informed the Leadership Council that he has been in his new position for about six weeks. The first two weeks started with camp. Sean has been focusing on a fall calendar for children and youth. It will be sent out in August. Sean is also solidifying Sunday school teacher rotations. He has been trying to connect with members of the congregation to find out their hopes and dreams for the ministry.

Vision Retreat

Chair Kelly Jackson discussed the Vision Retreat. The staff are already working on this through meetings with David (June 30 – Aug 10). On Aug 11th, there will be a Quarterly Staff Planning Meeting where the staff will discuss and share their vision for each ministry area/center. In early September, possibly September 13th, there will be a Leadership Council retreat during which the Leadership Council will review and discuss the Vision Plan. Staff will be there to present their area/center. In November, there will be a roll out of the Vision Plan to the congregation in conjunction with the Stewardship Campaign.

Kelly asked the Leadership Council determine availability for September 13th and contact her if the date does not work for any members.

SPRC Business

None

Prayer and Adjournment

Rev. Heather Rose led prayer. Chair Kelly Jackson adjourned the meeting at 5:53 pm.