

**Good Shepherd United Methodist Church**  
**Leadership Board Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**September 16, 2025**

**Where Lives Are Transformed By Grace**

We gather to experience Christ. We grow and explore our faith. We go and encourage the world.

**In Attendance:**

Anne Britt, Jayne Anne Grigg, Kim Ivey, Tiffany Lewis, Mary Beth Mitchell, Laurie Scott, Mark Smith, Jim Smutz, Jae Song, Wes Stein, and Carol Walker.

**Spiritual Formation:**

Pastor Jae opened the meeting with a prayer. Pastor Jae invited the Board to review the *Leadership Board Covenant*, which was implemented in 2022.

**Finance:**

Carol and Mark reviewed the GSUMC financials.

Carol advised the Board that August 2025 expenses were within the normal range and August 2025 net operating expenses totaled \$5,270.01; however, year-to-date net operating expenses totaled -\$52,085.43.

Carol advised the Board that an abandoned water well on the GSUMC property had deteriorated, posed a danger, and needed to be filled. The total cost for filling the well was \$3,200. The United Methodist Men have contributed \$1,700 towards the total expense. The remaining expense has been paid from the Restricted Funds Account.

HVAC repair expenses totaling \$53,000 have also been paid from the Restricted Funds Account, leaving a balance of \$76,000 in the Restricted Funds Account.

There was discussion about upcoming expenses and some of the larger expense items in the 2026 budget.

- Dinner Church was initially funded Dinner Church and is now funded by the general budget.
- The ESL Program is currently funded by our general budget, and we are applying for a grant for ESL Program funding.
- The Worship Arts budget for 2026 includes a \$7,000 budget increase.

- The Conference apportionments calculation will change effective January 1, 2026. The current annual expense is based upon a formula that is essentially 15-20% of the total annual budget. The new formula will be based on an apportionment of \$19,200 per clergy position. The bottom line/net change from the revised calculation will be minimal – an expense reduction of approximately \$10,000 per year.

Pastor Jae asked about the trend of negative operating income since 2021. There was a discussion that during COVID, GSUMC expenses were very low and consequently, surplus funds accumulated. This surplus covered some of the subsequent years' expense increases, but it has since been depleted. Expenses have continued to increase, while income and giving have plateaued. Additionally, some of the one-time, ancillary income sources that have provided supplemental income since 2022 no longer exist (for example, income from renting the CHUMC campus for a movie set).

Pastor Jae also noted that the offering box is not readily visible or prominent, and some worship attendees have been unable to find it. There was discussion about the offering box being more prominently displayed, as well as the possibility of returning to the practice of distributing the offering plate during worship. The Board agreed that returning to this practice might make giving more accessible during in-person worship. Wes suggested adding messages from the pulpit to better inform the congregation about our church budget status.

Pastor Jae asked about the history of Communion offerings and how those funds are allocated, and whether Communion contributions should be directed to the general fund. Historically, the funds from the Communion offering have been earmarked for specific purposes or projects; this allocation has usually led to a higher rate of giving.

### **Closed SPRC Session**

#### **Next Meeting:**

The next Leadership Board meeting is scheduled for October 10 at 7:15 p.m. in the GSUMC Conference Room.

#### **Closing Prayer:**

Pastor Jae closed the meeting with a prayer.