

Leadership Board Minutes  
September 9, 2025

Present: Bill McKellar, Donnie Wilkinson, Harry Solomon, Lee Sanders, Kaye Stevens, Rosemary Patterson, Stacy Wells, Preston DeLaune (treasurer)

Guests: Sarah McCurley (taking minutes), Cheryl and Jackie Nelson, Judy Alderman, Kathy Seal, Jane Cooper

Bill McKellar called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM. Lee Sanders led the devotion, followed by an opening prayer.

Preston presented the financial statements. The current operating account balance is \$14,000, which is below one month's typical expenses. Designated funds total \$300,000, with \$150,000 set aside and currently being used to offset revenue shortfalls. In August, income was \$52,000 and expenses were \$67,000. Year-to-date revenue is \$448,000 on a budget of \$466,000, while expenses are \$548,000 on a budget of \$543,000. The budget projected a \$100,000 loss for the year, which has already been met.

Donnie provided an overview of the Fall Stewardship Campaign, including themes and a timeline. The Charge Conference is scheduled for Sunday, November 16 at 3:00 p.m. Donnie asked that all items be finalized by the November council meeting. He expressed gratitude to those serving and requested that anyone unable or unwilling to continue in their current role notify him by the end of the month.

Donnie distributed a memo to the leadership team titled *Accepting Reality and Discerning the Future*. After a time of reflection, the council engaged in discussion regarding the church's current challenges and future options.

- Members expressed a range of emotions, including sadness, frustration, and determination. Several noted the need to face reality honestly rather than remain in denial.
- Concerns raised included financial sustainability, building maintenance, declining attendance, and generational giving patterns.
- Options discussed:
  1. Continue efforts to regain momentum.
  2. Explore a potential merger with another congregation.
  3. Consider closure, with property reverting to the conference.

Preston emphasized the importance of proactive planning before resources are depleted. Rosemary highlighted the need for stronger involvement of church leaders in stewardship efforts and reframing campaigns around what the church desires *for* people, not just *from* them.

Donnie proposed forming a study group, potentially in partnership with Asbury UMC, to assess property, demographics, and future options. He will contact the District Superintendent for guidance and support in assembling this team.

Donnie expressed appreciation for the thoughtful discussion, noting that the council has taken an important step by honestly assessing the current situation. He will contact the District Superintendent to seek guidance and support in forming a study team to explore possible paths forward. Donnie reminded the group that many churches face similar challenges, and what will set us apart is how we choose to respond to this reality.

Kaye moved, and Harry seconded, to authorize Donnie to proceed with discussions with RL and the District Superintendent regarding next steps. Motion carried.

Upcoming events were noted:

- Ladies Choir on Tuesday, December 2 at 7:00 p.m.
- Dual Concert on Sunday, December 21

Both events were approved.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 14 at 6:00 PM.

The meeting concluded at 7:29pm.