

Summary of the March 10, 2026 Governance Board Meeting

The governance board met Tuesday evening to address this month's agenda. The meeting opened with community singing led by Linda, followed by a reflection and prayer from Cristy. Chris then facilitated a discussion on the book *Immeasurable* by Skye Jethani. The key takeaways from this month's chapters emphasized that relationships are more important than results, and that people must take priority over programs and performance. Ultimately, the church's primary goal remains leading disciples into a deeper communion with God.

Pastor Matt's report opened with praise for last weekend's musical activities, noting that nearly 100 people attended either the Friday or Saturday workshop. He received a great deal of positive feedback and looks forward to future collaborations with Pam Blevins Hinkle. As for the pastor's passion for feeding the community he assured the board that Castleton will once again host the Gleaners distribution in June, July and August. Additionally, Pastor Matt and Linda have also been speaking with the Feeding Team. This organization provides food for hungry neighbors via a bright yellow box at numerous locations around the state and they are discussing the possibility of placing a distribution box on the church campus.

The Missions Team has been busy. Susy attended the Allies meeting last month. This important time for singing, praying and learning about the Allies mission was well attended with thirteen people from Castleton in attendance. Cristy reported that the Roberts Park "Soups On" program is going well and encourages anyone interested in the Mission Guatemala trip to speak with Mary Carson.

Mark provided a facilities update, noting the completion of HVAC repairs in the basement, the installation of water bottle filling stations, and drywall repairs in the upstairs bathrooms. To address rising energy costs, the church has partnered with AES on an efficiency program; four-foot fluorescent bulbs have already been replaced with LEDs, alongside new refrigeration seals and door sweeps. Looking ahead, Mark is currently overseeing a phased testing and installation process for new energy-saving LED lighting in the sanctuary. Finally, Still Waters will share the cost of purchasing new tables that will be needed for the Fish Fry and during the craft fair in the fall.

February's finances remain challenging. Matt Hilton reported that the total income for the month of February was \$97,246 while expenses were \$106,904 creating a deficit of \$9,658. Trustees' expenses were about \$14,000 higher than expected due to high utility expenses and snow removal. That puts year to date expenses \$20,980 over budget leaving a \$30,371 deficit at the end of February. In positive news, the church received a designated donation of \$12,000 to pay 4 months of premiums on the \$500,000 life insurance as well as \$51,180 in capital contributions that can go towards the principal balance on the debt.

The board discussed and approved the new Family Ministry staff job description. This is a part-time position that was developed by Pastor Matt and Chris, using input from parents and volunteers.

Looking ahead, the board discussed the upcoming church yard sale. In an effort to clean out unused items and create more storage space, all groups are asked to go through their belongings and identify what is essential. Everything else should be discarded or donated to the church yard sale, which will take place during the fish fry in July. This sale is intended for church items exclusively rather than personal items and anything left unsold will be disposed of with the fish fry trash.

Linda led a closing song before the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will take place April 14 at 6:00 pm.