Summary of the October 12, 2026 Governance Board Meeting

October's governance board meeting opened with a prayer and a brief reflection on life's natural stages and cycles, reminding everyone that we come from God and, when the time comes, will return to Him. After sharing joys and concerns, Chris guided the group with focused questions on personal limitations and what truly provides confidence and security.

Matt Hilton updated the board on September's financial figures. For the month, total giving reached $76,043, driven by $58,334 in pledged giving, and rose to $81,187 after including supplements from designated accounts. Because monthly expenses totaled $98,524, the church experienced a $17,337 loss, marking the third consecutive month with a deficit. Restricted and designated revenue included a $76,000 donation to the Trustees' Reserve for air conditioning costs, while restricted expenses included a $36,000 payment for office air conditioning and a $13,800 life insurance premium. The chiller expense will be paid next month using Trustees' Reserve donations. Looking at the year-to-date figures through September, total giving of $802,130 remained $40,582 under budget. However, the board remains hopeful that end-of-year contributions and unpledged giving will help close the gap. Looking ahead to the coming year, a new budget is currently being prepared, and the stewardship campaign will be starting soon.

Mark and Dan reported that they received such a warm and positive response concerning the Live Nativity that it will indeed continue. Three volunteers have stepped forward to organize the event, which will take place on December 5th. By paring down the event to one day with simplified sets, this beloved tradition will carry on.

Many people also provided helpful feedback on this year's Fish Fry. Tiffany will meet with the rest of the committee early next year to apply these insights and plan for future events.

With October being Staff Appreciation Month, the Staff-Parish Relations Committee has been very busy. They hosted a lovely luncheon for the Still Waters staff and set up a table in the narthex with thank-you cards available. They encourage everyone to take a moment to fill out a card to show their gratitude for everything the staff and pastor do for Castleton.

Mark reported that the cost to fix the heating and remove the asbestos (now mitigated) in the basement will be $10,000. Mark will also be installing two newly purchased lights for the sanctuary; if they work well, he will move forward with installing more as funds become available.

The board reviewed member feedback regarding the transition to a single worship service. While acknowledging some mixed feelings around this change, the board strongly believes it will unify our church and allow us to move forward together as one family. In a clear show of support for this new vision, the board voted unanimously to support the change.

The Missions Team continues to make a wonderful impact in the community. The Family Promise fundraiser in September was well supported, with twenty four people from CUMC in attendance. The team will soon be requesting grocery donations from the congregation to prepare dozens of Thanksgiving meals for families currently receiving support from Family Promise. Additionally, the Streets to Home initiative continues to be a great success, with over 280 people recently housed. The team will also be organizing the creation of "Apartment Baskets" to help furnish these new apartments. Finally, the annual Ingathering will take place on November 22nd.

Rae closed the meeting with a prayer, and the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.