

Summary of September 2026 Governance Board Meeting

September's meetings started with a timely reflection by Susan. The focus was on unity and reminded everyone that it's not necessary to have the same opinions to be on the same team. After sharing joys and concerns Chris led a thought-provoking discussion on consumerism. He warned against allowing consumeristic tendencies to drive decision making rather than the goal of making disciples of Christ.

Matt H. shared that in August, revenue from giving and the designated account supplement reached \$80,552 while monthly expenses totaled \$101,177 creating a monthly operating loss of \$20,625. This marked the second consecutive month with a loss exceeding \$20,000. The year-to-date figures show the total revenue through August reached \$767,664 with the year-to-date expenses totaled \$769,944 with an operating deficit of \$2,280. Despite these challenging figures, a parishioner made a generous \$75,000 donation to help cover the major air conditioning and maintenance costs incurred over the summer.

The Missions Team reported a successful Back to School drive, with the congregation stepping up to deliver much-needed supplies to Skiles Test and Crestview schools. Family Promise continues to receive strong support through grocery donations and is planning to provide Thanksgiving dinners to 20 apartments, 10 diversion families, and 10 after-care households. Progress also continues with Streets to Home, which has housed 280 people toward its 350-apartment goal, with more apartment welcome baskets needed soon. Finally, Susy shared that Habitat for Humanity will hold a panel build on Saturday morning, October 17 at Second Presbyterian Church. Everyone is invited to participate in this Multi-Faith build. Use the sign up in our eBulletin and designate you are with Castleton UMC.

The Staff Parish Relations Committee is busy planning two special appreciation luncheons—one to celebrate our dedicated church staff and another to honor the team at Still Waters. Additionally, the committee is hard at work evaluating and updating salary structures across the entire campus, including church staff, Still Waters, and CUMNS, to ensure fairness, uniformity, and consistency across all positions.

Mark brought the board up to date on several maintenance projects. The rooftop air conditioning unit for the office has been delivered to Irish, with installation expected within one to two weeks. In the Armstrong wing, a commercial dryer requires a \$2,000 replacement part. Meanwhile, the team is working to diagnose an ongoing basement leak that is causing extra stress on the compressors. On a bright note, volunteers recently stepped up to weed around the large playground, leaving it looking wonderful, and the committee is currently investigating lower-maintenance options to border the area in the future.

The board continued to discuss debt reduction. Many questions raised during the previous month's meetings regarding the potential sale of the Ministry Building were thoroughly revisited. Gary Rollins and David Ayers, representing the Debt Reduction Committee, attended to address these concerns and explore available options. Following a thorough discussion, the board voted to move forward to a charge conference vote to hire a realtor and list the property for sale. A charge conference with the district superintendent will be scheduled shortly to finalize the process.

The meeting ended at 9:00 pm with a prayer from Susan with the next meeting date set for October thirteenth.