

Alamo Heights UMC

Board of Stewards – Agenda & Meeting Notes

June 19, 2025
5:00PM in Room W100

<i>In</i>	<i>Out</i>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
X		David Kinder	Chair
X		Dianne Dorsett	Vice Chair
X		Steve Waters	Chair Trustees
	X	Renee Kizziar	Chair Foundation
X		Pat Crump	Chair SPRC
X		Johnny Boyd	Chair Finance
	X	Dan St. Romain	Lay Leader
X		Vanessa Konkol	Secretary
	X	Carrie Lobasso	Finance
	X	Hill Ojeda	Finance
	X	Steve Waters	Trustee Chair
X		Brian Nash	Trustee
X		Thad C. Ziegler	Trustee
X		Caroline Wernli	SPRC
	X	Randy Holmes	SPRC
	X	Amy Wilcox	SPRC
X		Doran Dennis	At-Large
	X	Brian Griffin	At-Large
X		James L. Smith	At-Large
X		Rev. Jason Adams	Senior Pastor
X		Rev. Linda Baumheckel	Congregational Care Pastor
	X	Rev. Chris Estus	Recovery Pastor
X		Reed McNitzky	Modern Worship Pastor
	X	Darrell Smith	Discipleship & Communications Pastor
X		Donna Strieb	Spiritual Formation & Taize Worship Pastor
X		Janet Weatherston	Missions & Outreach Pastor
X		Valerie Slade	Executive Director
X		Lindsay Hannah	Finance Director

Welcome – David Kinder

Prayer - Janet Weatherston referenced a verse from Luke as she prayed over the meeting, “From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked” (Luke 12:48).

Approval of April Minutes – David Kinder:

- MOTION 1st: Johnny Boyd
- MOTION 2nd: Rev. Jason Adams
- DECISION: Passes

Grow Together Campaign: Valerie Slade provided an update on the campaign, which is “off and running.” First Impression Meeting, or FIG, occurred on June 10, 2025. Johnny Boyd & Rev. Jason Adams gave the intro, and the presentation was divided into 5 categories of solutions for AHUMC, listed below. Each participant was given sticker dots to select items they were most excited about. Top votes were Children & Youth areas, receiving the most sticker dots. Summary of initial feedback is that all areas had dots:

- *Strongly Agree - 18 areas*
- *Agree - 4 areas*
- *Abstain - 1 area*

- 1) **First Impression Improvements (\$575,000):** create a positive first impression by addressing landscaping needs, updating signage for improved clarity, adding guest parking spaces closer to the building, increasing handicap spaces, repaving, sealing and painting the parking lot, repainting fences, purchasing a golf cart for guest transportation, installing cameras at entrances and in the parking lot to enhance security, and updating building intrusion alarms and software to align with new technological standards (cloud based).
- 2) **Enhance spaces for congregational and community engagement (\$1,031,250):** renovate the outdoor Atrium Terrace with improved landscaping, hard surfaces for tables and seating, as well as electricity, thus creating usable space for families, young adults, seniors, and the community to connect through meaningful events, worship, study, and fellowship. Additionally, update the Atrium, CLC, and Parlor to enhance the space with a focus on hospitality for small groups, Bible studies, gatherings, and reaching young adults by replacing worn carpet, damaged tile, renovating the restrooms, updating furnishings, and painting. Update building automation sensors.
- 3) **Children and Youth Facility Updates (\$968,750):** enhance the space to ensure it is not only welcoming for families with children and youth, but also clean and safe. This includes replacing carpet that is over 30 years old, updating furnishings, painting, upgrading the fire alarm system, adding vestibules for our school, expanding 2 Sunday School classrooms, and renovating the library.

- 4) **Accessibility Improvements (\$925,000):** ensure AHUMC's facilities are accessible to everyone, including those with limited mobility and disabilities. This includes providing access to the choir loft, making all restrooms fully handicap accessible, replacing the outdated elevator controls, and adding automatic door openers at entrances.
- 5) **Enhance Worship, Mission, and Outreach Spaces (\$1,443,750):** transforming the chancel for greater flexibility with portable pulpit and lectern to enhance sight lines and accommodate varying styles of worship, performances, and events held in the Sanctuary, enhance lighting and projection in the CLC. Renovate the CLC stage to make it accessible to all. Install a soothing area in front of the library for young families with children. Strengthen our capacity to more effectively serve the hurting and those in need in our community through our support, healing, and recovery ministries. This will be achieved by upgrading the West Wing facilities, which includes replacing the carpet, painting classrooms, and updating furnishings. Establish a fund to update the kitchen equipment that is utilized daily. Build a facility emergency fund to cover growing insurance deductibles to protect the church from catastrophic repairs

Finance Report: Johnny Boyd & Lindsay Hannah reviewed summaries for May 2025.

ADDENDUM 1: MAY 2025 BOARD FINANCIAL STATEMENT

ADDENDUM 2: MAY 2025 PER CAPITA GIVING

May receipts were more than expected by \$11.2K. This was largely attributable to higher than planned tithes from regular contributors. This was partially offset by lower than anticipated facility fees. Household givers were 300 with a per capita giving of \$615. There were 11 new givers in plate cash for the month. YTD receipts exceeded the budget by \$122.6K. May disbursements were lower than expected by \$5.4K. This was primarily driven by positive variances for salaries and benefits and insurance costs and programs, partially offset by higher than planned expenses for programs and maintenance. Programs were more than anticipated because the majority of VBS registration fees were collected in March and April while the majority of the expenses occurred in May. Maintenance had an unfavorable variance because of higher than planned costs for utilities. Because of healthy receipts, we paid our apportionment balance for the month. Overall, May's net results had a positive variance of \$16.6K and YTD net results exceeded expectations by \$156.8K.

Report on Annual Conference: Dianne Dorsett provided a summary of the session. The 2025 Rio Texas Annual Conference was held June 11-14, in Corpus Christi, TX, and hosted by Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey. The theme was Adelante, which means "moving forward" in Spanish. The scripture theme was Philippians 3:12-14 MSG; "...I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward: to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back."

Session 1 - Conference regulations & reports from Methodist-related organizations.

Session 2 - 3 Practices for Crossing the Difference Divide:

- 1) I'll practice being unusually interested in others (genuine curiosity)
 - 2) I'll stay in the room with difference (we can disagree without breaking up)
 - 3) I'll stop comparing my best with your worst (no playing "gotcha")
- Not expecting agreement but clarity – framing question, starting with the words "I'd be curious to know"
 - Wording that leads to discussion
 - Brings clarity, focus and understanding
 - Be courteous, kind and respectful
 - Bishop Harvey described this as spiritual, contemplative practices. I realized that these are tools we can use in conversations at church, other organizations, and with friends and family.

Session 3 - Service of Remembrance, led by McNitzky pastors, David, Reed and Becca!
Session 4 & 5 - Teaching Sessions from the Rev. Dr. Michael Adam Beck, who each participant was given a copy of his book "Never Alone – Sharing the Gift of Community in a Lonely World." Dr. Beck is a pastor, professor, author and thought leader in the Fresh Expressions movement for The United Methodist Church (Google Beck's name and "UMC Fresh Expressions" for more info). This is a new form of church in places where people would never enter a church building on a Sunday morning. They are forming new faith communities in places where people are already gathering. In addition to co-pastoring traditional UM congregations in Florida with his wife, they also have 13 fresh expressions that gather in tattoo parlors, dog parks, salons, running tracks, community centers, burrito joint, and digital spaces. He refers to these as Compassionate Communities.

Some of their church community names: Burritos & Bibles, Tattoo Parlor Church, Shenanigans – senior "saints" stirring up Holy mischief, Midweek Grind – safe space for LGBTQ persons to explore spirituality in a local coffee shop, and Recovery Church.

- Conference has been reorganized into three Districts – Central, North and South.
- Comments were shared from our Central District Superintendent, the Rev. Dr. Robert Ortiz.

Senior Pastor's Comments: *Global Leadership Conference Dates: Thurs/Fri, August 7-8 (8:30am-4pm). BOS all invited. Units provided for Continuing Education - great opportunity to hone leadership!*

Chairman of the Board's Comments: David Kinder

Closing Prayer – Rev Jason Adams

Next Meeting: *August 21, at 5pm in W100 (Recess During July)*