

Alamo Heights UMC
Board of Stewards – Agenda & Meeting Notes
 October 16, 2025
 5:00PM in Room W100

<i>Live</i>	<i>Out</i>	Name	Title
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
Z		Brian Nash	Trustee
	X	Thad C. Ziegler	Trustee
X		Caroline Wernli	SPRC
X		Randy Holmes	SPRC
	X	Amy Willcox	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 - Darrell Smith**Approval of September Minutes – David Kinder:**

- MOTION 1st: Steve Waters
- MOTION 2nd: James Smith
- DECISION: Passes

Review of Candidate for Deacon - Rev. Abel Stewart: Review of process for when a person has applied for full membership in the Rio Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. Provisional candidate, Darrell Smith, has been diligently working through and completing the many milestones towards this new chapter. Rev. Stewart has served as a mentor, who gives friendly encouragement and walks alongside mentee. Ordination is the end goal after 2 years, where Darrell will be a full deacon in the STX conference! This is a marathon, not a sprint! References and other qualified persons assist in discerning the candidate's readiness to enter ordained ministry. All BOD members were given a Standard Assessment Form for the Rio Texas Conference – Board of Ordained Ministry to complete this year and again next year as part of the process.

Elders and local pastors are called to primary roles. Elders are charged with preaching the word, ordering the life of the church, and with sacraments, among others. A deacon shares and overlaps some of that, but also is different. Preaching, Service, Sacraments, a ministry of compassion and justice is the additional task of the deacon, in various capacities. It is one of the key aspects is bridging the life of the church with the life of the community. How does the congregation bridge that gap? It is fluid and ever-evolving. Just this year, the authorization was given to administer the sacraments in a community setting.

Darrell also shared some of the things he is working on in this process. 8 retreats for 2 years with continuing education training on a variety of topics, including meeting with spiritual directors on the retreat, discipleship, growth agenda, etc. Coming out of the process are items to work on including building collegial relationships beyond the local church. REM stands for Residency in Ministry.

We offer prayers, encouragement and support to Darrell!

ADDENDUM 1: RIO TEXAS CONFERENCE – BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY STANDARD ASSESSMENT FORM

Finance Report – Johnny Boyd / Lindsay Hannah: September receipts were less than expected by \$6.3K. This was largely attributable to lower than planned tithes from regular contributors. Additionally, weddings were more than projected because we received final deposits for September weddings while a portion of the related expenses will be paid out in October. Household givers were 291 with a per capita giving of \$679. There were 12 new givers in plate cash for the month. YTD receipts exceeded the

budget by \$114K. September disbursements were less than anticipated by \$3.8K. This was primarily driven by positive variances for salaries and benefits and insurance costs, partially offset by higher than planned maintenance expenses. Maintenance was over budget because of unplanned repairs for the elevator and fire alarm/security system. We paid our apportionment balance for the month. Overall, September's net results were less than expected by \$2.5K and YTD net results exceeded expectations by \$170K. All in all, it was a good month. Analyzing this, compared to last year, there's not much of a change. The good news, however, is that we are running ahead with the same number of households. This means that giving has increased.

Johnny provided a handout illustrating the "glass half full." The handout pictured a hand-drawn drawing of a science beaker on it. It showed liquid to the halfway point, and was labeled on the side with measurements. 2024 Actual was labeled at the halfway mark. Johnny had the BOD members each mark our 2025 YTD position which was higher than last year's end mark, at 8.7% ahead of prior year. An encouraging exercise with a focus on positivity and encouragement for Q4. December is a tough month, but we approach it with a positive attitude!

ADDENDUM 2: SEPTEMBER 2025 BOARD FINANCIAL STATEMENT

ADDENDUM 3: SEPTEMBER 2025 PER CAPITA GIVING

Grow Together Campaign – Valerie Slade: Please see website updates with Comms team updates.

- 3D rendering posters in foyer and on website show a vision of what the back of the church could look like with drought-friendly plants, shrubs to be replaced that died during bad weather. Half of the atrium will have pavers and seating, new landscaping over dead landscaping. 2nd half to potentially be an activity area with artificial turf and a play area. Vision is to bring a connective place for families, service projects, and an inviting meeting area. Last night's town hall discussed turf versus grass as an alternative to an area where grass does not currently grow. There is not a play space with the average parishioners and public to "play" that is inviting to others than preschoolers
- Vision Board shows what the library might be (not yet professionally rendered) - currently have a nursing room, but we need a sink to be added into this area. The church archives will stay as is. Godly Play is a tactile way of teaching Bible Stories with kits and sensory teaching tools. Weekday School uses this daily. Children's books are currently being checked out with a working system (automated self-serve). Adding a section of teen books. Keeping righthand corner as adult resources for use as a Church Library, not a general library with general material. Back wall is a study area for students to use as a dedicated homework area for study. The soothing room (cry room previously) as a place for children to go during the service to play and parents can still view the service via TV.
- Oct. 26th - Nexr Town Hall after church is the next downhill, with family-friendly food and activities for children to encourage families to attend.

- Nov. 16 at 3PM is a church conference, presented by Greg Hackett, where a vote will be held to determine whether to pursue this project. Intent is to have a unified front as a parishioners, members, and staff to work forward together. This Grow-Together Campaign vote is the only agenda item at this meeting to be voted on.
- At last night's meeting, the question came up about how the weekday school's expenses affect the church. They are a ministry of the Church and not a separate entity. The hope is for the weekday school to be a gateway of welcome to this church. Currently, there are 25% of weekday school attendees who attend church here. The good news here, also, is that new members come from the school, and new families enter the church school every year. Having a fully integrated weekday school and Children's Ministry at this church is something to be very proud of.
- Carr helped us with the pricing out of the project, in all the phases, along with Brian Nash and David Brewer. They went project-by-project to make sure that our costs for the phases were reasonable.

Senior Pastor's Comments – Jason Adams: Asked Valerie to share a bit about CE (Continuing Education) with the staff. Valerie shared that the ministry teams, Children, Music, Youth, and Executive Director, were taken to Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, KS to attend the Leadership Institute to hear about elevating excellence in the church. Adam Hamilton has a gift of growing ministry (their church has 28k members) and shared what has worked well in their ministries. They have shared quite a bit of support in our planning on our Grow Together campaign.

This is a value that we share to invest in our people.. Our staff and our lay people is our strength. Empowering them to be able to be the best in their ministry is critical. It was empowering to hear that we are doing a lot of things already in our church which was encouraging, but learning will help us grow in our maturity as leaders. Encouraging directors to grow brings things forward. We are thankful to see the importance of investing in our people.

Grow Together Campaign encouragement - look online, make comments, learn, ask questions, and please fill out the anonymous survey which will help Horizons gauge overall excitement in moving this campaign forward. All ministries should participate and share feedback if they have not yet done so. Age 12+ can complete surveys and also vote!

We give thanks and feel really blessed through this process. We appreciate prayers and progress towards working together in a shared vision. We need one other to come together and hear what God needs from us. BOS is needed to get people to the town hall!

Chairman of the Board's Comments – David Kinder: This campaign is difficult as it is a lot of focus on areas that are deferred maintenance, which can be a hard sell. SPRC meeting this coming Sunday. BOS - Please thank our Pastors, who are amazing! You

watch and do things that are beyond the typical expectation. We are blessed that God has put you into place to do his work. Thank you for all you do!

Closing Prayer – Janet Weatherston:

Next Meeting: November 20, 2025, at 5pm in W100