

Minutes of February 2026

Welcome – Dianne Dorsett

Prayer – Janet Weatherston: Prayer of Fasting - in the words of Pope Francis, Do You Want to Fast this Lent?

- ❖ Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- ❖ Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- ❖ Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- ❖ Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- ❖ Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- ❖ Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- ❖ Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- ❖ Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- ❖ Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- ❖ Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- ❖ Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

Mission Central is partnering with the Texas Diaper Bank to provide diapers (sizes newborn to 6) to our neighbors in need. We have also purchased sanitary products for women and girls in need. Each month, a person can receive two packages of diapers and two to four packages of menstrual products.

We will receive a monthly delivery and distribute these through Mission Central on Wednesdays from 1-4 pm in West 102 and on Mondays from 9am - 2 pm in Hope Center room F 103. Our Wesley Nurse has access to this supply of products for her clients in need. Each person who receives these products completes a simple form with information required by the Texas Diaper Bank.

Approval of January Minutes – Dianne Dorsett:

- MOTION 1st: Dan St. Romain
- MOTION 2nd: James Smith
- DECISION: Passes

Finance Report – Johnny Boyd / Lindsay Hannah

January 2026 Financial Explanations: January receipts were more than expected by \$14.2K. This was largely attributable to higher than planned tithes from regular contributors and annual pledges paid in full. While plate cash was slightly lower than anticipated, it was more than offset by deposits received for future weddings. Household givers were 283 with a per capita giving of \$763. There were 3 new givers in plate cash for the month. January disbursements were less than anticipated by \$2.3K. This was driven by favorable variances in salaries and benefits and insurance, partially offset by higher-than-expected expenses for technical arts and administration. Salaries and benefits were positive because of budgeted amounts not used. Insurance costs have a positive variance, and the savings will be moved to our wind/hail fund. Technical arts expenses were over budget because of a one-time purchase of an online course which trains our volunteers to operate the audio equipment correctly. Administration was unfavorable because of more than planned postage. Because of healthy receipts, we paid our apportionment balance for the month. Overall, January's net results exceeded projections by \$16.5K.

Review of Report for 2026 Operating Budget: Review of 2025 actuals compared to the 2026 budget. In the 2026 Final Budget Proposal, the highlighted columns are the “\$ Change from 2025 Actuals,” along with explanations.

- *TITHES* - There was a \$90k increase in tithes, under the “General Revenue” column, which was a 3.5% increase of 2025 actuals. 2025 was 3.8% ahead of budget. The Foundations contribution was already approved and is definite.
- *SALARY* – Proposed increase of \$75,000, based on amounts not spent in 2025. We came in under budget last year. The increase percentage matches money not spent last year and keeps us at pace with inflation.
- *BENEFITS* – In the area of health insurance, there were benefits not used in 2025, premium increases, and a new PT to FT employee now getting health insurance. 403B – Benefits not used, keeping in budget. There is a small increase that matches in value money not spent in prior year.
- *FIXED* – Apportionments are down \$17k.
- *INSURANCE* - \$18k increases reflects no 2026 change due to costs not spent in 2025.
- *MAINTENANCE* - 2026 is in line with 2025 actuals. Costs are going up, which would be the most realistic scenario. Finance committee made the change to \$520k. Since COVID, we have been budgeting a deficit every year. Every year, the deficit is coming down to a balanced budget. This is something we are moving to eliminate to get back to a balanced budget.
- *PROGRAMS* - \$4k increase to 2026 budget, but matches costs not spent in 2025.
- *PROJECTED 2026* – Deficit of \$67k. Tax credit to be applied - \$67k.
- *TAX CREDIT SURPLUS* - \$400k.

Pastor Jason: We feel comfortable with pastoral and lay staff (both in number and position) and soft costs (such as repairs). Hard costs are salary. Our role is to offer good things and keep great people who want to work here, who want to work for a purpose. We are gifted with what we have and want to keep the talent that we have. It is excellent to be able to provide both salary and benefits and maintain full time talent. Taking care of our folks is crucial. Ministry is not a 9-5, it is always going on and there are seasons of fluctuations.

One of the Finance committee suggestions was to look at having a Stewardship Committee that works with the Finance Committee numbers. This would help people to understand and be motivated to see how the numbers are used. We will continue to monitor closely as the Grow Together Campaign is such a focus this year. Trying to get people to give so we can make our deficit doesn't really work. Instead, we must be able to look into the future to see how this is going to be for our future. The good news is, we are fully funded, it's just in your pocket {laughter at joke}. Church must do a better job of teaching this new generation the Biblical value of tithing and giving. In 2027, we see a continuation of focus on Stewardship and looking at best practices with Horizons about how to teach the current and changing generation – because what works has changed.

Approval of 2026 Operating Budget – Dianne Dorsett:

- MOTION 1st: All in favor, none opposed
- MOTION 2nd: All in favor, none opposed
- DECISION: Passes

ADDENDUM 1: JANUARY 2026 BOARD FINANCIAL STATEMENT

ADDENDUM 2: 2026 BUDGET

ADDENDUM 3: JANUARY 2026 PER CAPITA GIVING

Grow Together Campaign Gift Update – Lindsay Hannah: 5.7% of goal and \$2.2 has been pledged.

Grow Together Campaign Executive Building Committee Leadership Introductions– Steve Waters

The Building Committee is cooking. It's set up the exact same way it was set up when we built this building. Carr Hornbuckle is chairing the committee, has been a member of this church since 1989, when he joined through 8th Grade Confirmation. He grew up in this church. Johnny Boyd and Brian Nash are also in place, and this fits right in line with both their backgrounds. Vice Chair is Roger Lind, who has worn dozens of hats, some of them big in this very church. Roger has been a member of this church since 1980, and it is a blessing to have him. Brief review provided of detailed credentials of committee members. 6/7 was the planned number of members to do it right, and having the best folks is key. We are looking at a few additional folks to add along the way.

Nomination of Helen Bryan to Serve on the Finance Committee – Jason Adams

- MOTION 1st: Dianne Dorsett
- MOTION 2nd: Steve Waters
- DECISION: Passes

Senior Pastor's Comments – Jason Adams

March 1-4, 2026 - Jason will attend The Leading Edge Institute in Richardson. This is a group meeting of the pastors from the largest 100 churches for learning together, led by Adam Hamilton.

March 5, 2026 - Grow Together Campaign meeting where we can provide transparency about the campaign and share a meal together. Not a hard sell, more of an invitation to ask for a commitment. "My family tithes as well as alms (above and beyond tithing to things that we believe in). My wife and I met to talk and decide what, as a family, we should give and decided to put a few fixer-upper home projects on hold so that we can give above and beyond into the Grow Together Campaign and put our efforts towards that this year. I share this as an example of how we will re-direct."

September 27, 2026 - The date for the Grow Together Celebration Campaign Kick-off.

November 1, 2026 - All Saints Day celebration.

AHUMC is the biggest church in the Rio Texas Conference. We have other churches reach out to us to ask for guidance, and we are supposed to help each other in this way. It is important to pay our apportionments at 100%. This is not a denominational task; it is to help others do God's work.

For 2027, we are negotiating to host the annual conference here. We are big enough that we can do this. It requires a large plan to make this happen, including bringing in large-scale full-scale restrooms with A/C and running water, to accommodate the attendees.

In Luke 12:48, it says "...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." There is a lot that is expected of us, and our job is to accept the challenge and help others. Many helpers will be needed to guide, greet and support this good event, and Board of Stewards members will be able to support in this way.

Chairman of the Board's Comments – Dianne Dorsett: The Ash Wed service was wonderful last night. We planned for 100 chairs and had to bring in another 100. We didn't have enough ashes and had to bring in more. Overall, it was a wonderful worship service with children leading the music, and it was great to see that many people there. 20 folks were at the 7am. There were 300 who came to receive ashes via drive-through. We did classes, and even the Day School children got to get ashes on the backs of their hands.

Conflict of interest policy - 499 tracks the list of BOS members who read and sign the forms each year. Please take a form, read it, sign it, and return. It may be returned to Leah Jayne, Church Secretary via hard copy or emailed with signature. Last night, The Sanctuary Choir rehearsed the hymn to be sung at the 11:00 am service on Sunday. The words brought me comfort: Jesus, you are the source of all I need. Look forward to hearing that at the 11 am service on Sunday.

Closing Prayer – Jason Adams: Prayer of Praise

Next Meeting: March 19, 2026, at 5pm in W100