



ALAMO HEIGHTS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Board of Stewards – Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 20, 2026

5:00PM in Room W100

<u>Live</u>	<u>Out</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
	X	Dianne Dorsett	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		Helen Bryan	Finance
X		Thad C. Ziegler	Trustee
X		Sally Flanagan	Trustee
X		Scott Boynton	Trustee
X		Caroline Wernli	SPRC
	X	Randy Holmes	SPRC
	X	John Burnam	SPRC
X		James L. Smith	At-Large
X		Camille Jones	At-Large
	X	John Townsend	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 & Taizé Worship Pastor
X		Janet Weatherston	Missions & Outreach Pastor
X		Valerie Slade	Executive Director
X		Lindsay Hannah	Finance Director



Welcome – Valerie Slade

- Opened with prayer for Dianne's daughter, Ginger, who is in the hospital. Dianne is with her during the medical emergency and asking for prayer.

Prayer — Linda Baumheckel / Janet Weatherston (Prayer about the Vine)

'Gracious God, You are the vine, and we are the branches. Our life, our strength, and all that we hope to become flow from you.

- *As we gather tonight as your servants and leaders, keep us connected to you and to one another. Help us to see this church not simply as separate ministries, programs, and responsibilities, but as branches of one living vine, growing together for your purposes.*
- *As we hear reports of progress, let us give thanks for every sign of new life. As we hear of challenges and needs, teach us how to pray, how to encourage, and how to respond. Give us eyes to recognize where you are already at work and wisdom to discern where you are calling us to grow.*
- *Prune from us whatever distracts us from your purpose. Strengthen the places that are bearing fruit. And bind us together in a spirit of trust, generosity, and shared mission.*
- *May everything we discuss and every decision we make tonight help this congregation grow more deeply rooted in your love, more closely connected to one another, and more fruitful in serving the world.*

Abide in us, Lord Jesus, as we abide in you. Amen."

Approval of June Meeting Minutes – Valerie Slade:

- MOTION 1st: Johnny Boyd
- MOTION 2nd: Caroline Wernli
- DECISION: Passes

SPRC Update - Pat Crump

1. Alfred Ramirez – Buildings Operations Director
2. OPENING: Graphic Designer – Angelina's position is open and posted for backfill. There have been 150+ applicants in 5 days, screening/interview process under way.

Finance Report – Johnny Boyd / Lindsay Hannah

July, 2026 Results: July 2026 Financial Explanations July receipts were \$9.4K below expectations, mainly due to lower-than-planned tithes from regular contributors. The month included 266 household givers, with per capita giving of \$721, and 6 new plate-cash givers. July disbursements were \$6.8K below expectations, primarily due to favorable variances in programs and communications. Programs were positive because



New Zion expenses were reclassified to the Youth Choir Fund. Communications costs came in under budget due to prudent staff spending. We paid our apportionment balance for the month. Overall, July's net results were lower than projections by \$2.5K.

ADDENDUM 1: July 2026 Board Financial Statement

ADDENDUM 2: July 2026 Per Capita Giving

Trustees Report – Thad Zigler

Board of Trustees – Committee met this past Tuesday and reviewed the NW property currently for sale. Interest has continued and we will continue meeting with prospects.

1. Building Committee Update – Finalizing vendor selection for 2 projects. Former Board of Trustees member, Brian Nash, worked with and recommends vendor, contract close to final. For improvements to campus-wide security infrastructure, work slated to begin soon. Current trustee, Scott Boynton, uses a particular vendor that we are looking to continue working with. Both projects are within budget.
2. Building Operations Director - Kacey Brewer has moved to Austin, and we shared with her how much her work here was appreciated. Taking her place is Alfred Ramirez and we are happy to have him in place.
 - a. Valerie Slade noted: Light poles in terrace haven't worked for a long time and we thought they needed to be replaced, However, in the past week Alfred has started working here, Alfred has gotten them working and saved us \$12k in replacement costs!
3. Soccer Lot - For seasonal Christmas tree sales, Papa Noel will be renting our soccer lot, starting November 10th.

Foundation Report - Renee Kizziar

Foundation Committee met in July, and again the month after the end of the quarter. Liquidities came up as a topic. The Foundation makes a yearly budget contribution to the church. This topic is coming up soon for a decision regarding the endowment. Last year, we assigned a staff member to spend the proceeds that this gift creates. Recently, the Foundation has been quiet, because we don't want to conflict with GTC. At this Fall's meeting, we will review the timeline for next calendar year. Gifts have been given to GTC from the Foundation: The Lectureship fund, Building fund, keeping the piano in shape, music fund towards Summer Sounds, Children's SS, Hand bell, and the Mission fund.

If you know anyone who wants to give money, they can designate at a particular level. Promotion planning/end-of-life-planning is a consideration.

Grow Together Financials – Lindsay Hannah

- We are grateful that \$1.82m has been given.



- Sept 13th is GTC kickoff launch.
- Our goal is \$5.4m, and we are progressing to that goal.

Grow Together Campaign Update - Valerie Slade

Grow Together Campaign Fall Timeline: Handout provided with the following important dates:

- August 23 - Groundbreaking Celebration: Atrium Terrace, in between services. Dignitaries will be on the upper level of the terrace. Our ceremonial shovel will be in place to till a strip of soil during the dedication ceremony.
- September 12 - Youth Ministry: Dog Wash & Homemade Doggy Treat Event
- September 20 - Children's Ministry: Piggy Bank Collection
- October 4 - Commitment Sunday: Ministry collections to be laid on the altar
- Window of Prayers Vigil - Linda Baumheckel & Janet Weatherston are hosting a very creative prayer vigil series where folks are invited to choose 30-minute time slots and pray over the campaign. Vigil to be held over 3 days' time.
- November 1 - Celebration Sunday, hosted in church parking lot.

Note: Special invitations forthcoming for the above events.

Smith Sessions Speaker Request – Renee Kizziar / Darrell Smith

There is a fund in the Foundation designated for lectures, special guests / preachers - anything to further the spiritual mindset of human beings. Parameters were set up back when our church was at the Broadway location (approvals, etc.). In the endowment the earnings are \$66k, available to spend.

Darrell is bringing a request to this board today: Speaker invitation for Jonathan Foster, theologian, and nonprofit leader, and friend of Darrell. Jonathan is an expert and author on the topic of grief. One of his books is "Indigo, the Color of Grief." Payment was not sought after, rather a \$1,000 plus travel expenses as a gift to honor the speaker. Request was up to \$1,500. He would be flying in from Kansas City on Southwest Airlines on

August 30 and would preach at all 3 services. To save money on a hotel, he would stay at Darrell & Stacy's home. If approved, remaining allotment available would be \$64.5k.

- MOTION 1st: Vanessa Konkol
- MOTION 2nd: Pat Crump
- DECISION: Passes

Senior Pastor's Comments – Jason Adams

We couldn't be more pleased to invite this speaker to come in and help us to understand the grieving process as a community. Grief is not something to run away from, but a part of being human and is something that everyone encounters.

- *Linda Baumheckel noted: Our entire community has also been invited to come and enjoy this guest.*



Summer Updates: Fully recovered from surgery to preemptively remove kidney stones, and a summer full of travels is has wrapped up, including 6 days during the month of August,

1. Bloys Campmeeting – 186th year of the oldest operating camp revival in Texas, located in Ft. Davis area. Presiding circuit riding pastor. Originated in 1890, with 48 initial participants, of which many descendants still attend today. Approximately 3000 attendees. Activities also provided for children, youth, & adults. I preached for different groups each of the 5 days.

On Growing Together: A big church like this is like a cruise ship - we can adjust by degrees, and it takes a while to change. As a healthy church, through GTC, we are moving towards addressing the current and future needs of our church family. GTC will take about 5 years' time to transition through. One of the criticisms is what we are doing about missions. Truly, all of this connects through worship, discipleship. Being able to love, welcome, and take care of people will allow us to continue to grow and move forward in the right way. We will always need to adjust "on our cruise ship." Capital campaigns also help the operating budget because once folks invest in a capital campaign, they want to be part of their investment. We always want to move towards what God wants us to be.

Having a strategic ministry plan involves bringing in experts (such as a ministry consultant) at times and providing feedback on helping us to attain growth towards our goal.

Continuing to roll the ball forward in a healthy way is critical. Nothing happens without intentional leadership, standing together, and ensuring we are taking steps in the right direction. Continuing to raise up leaders is our goal here with staff and BOS.

Chairman of the Board's Comments – Dianne Dorsett:

- Prayers of thanks for good news (just delivered via text) on Dianne's daughter!
 - *Note: As this meeting was approaching the end of Pastor Jason's update, above, right now we were moving to the Chairman of the Board's Comments, typically given by Dianne, an update on Ginger came in. Renee Kizziar stood up to read an incoming text from Dianne, herself, stating that they just received initial results for Ginger, and tests results are favorable! The entire meeting erupted in praise, cheers, and thanks.*

Closing Prayer – Prayer about growth and staying connected to the Vine as Christ's disciples.

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 17, 2026, at 5pm in W100