



ALAMO HEIGHTS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Board of Stewards – Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 17, 2026

5:00PM in Room W100

<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
	X	Dianne Dorsett	Chair
X		Steve Waters	Chair Trustees
Z		Renee Kizziar	Chair Foundation
	X	Pat Crump	Chair SPRC
X		Johnny Boyd	Chair Finance
Z		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
Z		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
Z		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 – Johnny Boyd

- Opened meeting with introduction to special guests and how they will share a gift of song as our opening prayer.

Grow Together Anthem — AJ Navarro / Sarah Ortiz

My name is AJ and I am the Modern Worship Director at Alamo Heights United Methodist Church. A few months ago, I was asked to write a song for our church. I accepted because what I love most about this church is that we are a community that welcomes all. That spirit of inclusion inspired me to begin “We Will Be One,” written by Jordan Bryant, Sarah Ortiz, and me. Grateful to everyone who helped bring this song to life!

Sarah Ortiz — Executive Producer & Co-Writer
AJ Navarro — Drums, Co-Writer & Co-Producer
Jordan Bryant — Lead Vocals & Co-Writer
Dave Brown — Recording Engineer & Bass
Josh Cavazos — Piano & Strings
Glen Mead — Electric Guitar
Darrell Smith — Acoustic Guitar
Laura Pendley — Backing Vocals

The song is now available on all streaming platforms. Use the link here to listen:

<https://linktr.ee/ajnavarro>

Approval of August Meeting Minutes – Johnny Boyd:

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

Finance Report – Johnny Boyd / Lindsay Hannah

August 2026 Results: August receipts were \$12.4K below expectations, primarily due to lower-than planned tithes from regular contributors. This was partially offset by higher than anticipated facility fees. The month included 266 household givers, with per capita giving of \$621, and 6 new plate-cash givers. August disbursements were \$8.3K below expectations, primarily due to favorable variances in programs and insurance, partially offset by higher than planned costs for technical arts. Programs were positive because a portion of VBS expenses were reclassified to the Outreach Fund. Technical arts came in over budget because of an increase in the monthly cost for 3rd party IT services. We paid our apportionment balance for the month. Overall, August’s net results were lower than projections by \$4.1K.



ADDENDUM 1: August 2026 Board Financial Statement

ADDENDUM 2: August 2026 Per Capita Giving

Donaldson Bequest – Donna Strieb / Lindsay Hannah

Our church has received a bequest from a former member, Doris Donaldson, who passed away in 2012.

Donna Strieb noted, Doris was a very active member when the church was on Broadway, and she moved here with us to this location, and spent her last years here. Doris was a faithful member here, worshiped regularly, and was a good friend to my parents.

Charitable Uni Trust, in which assets are put into a trust, and both charitable and non-charitable beneficiaries were designated. The charity designated receives the remaining funds. Doris' niece received her portion and passed away in February of this year.

The remaining assets come to the church. We received documentation from the trustee a month ago, and it was lengthy and complex. There are 2 organizations involved:

- Partnership interest. - type of organization/corporation, which is a limited partnership
- Interest in LLC - also, a type of organization

Jim Aycock, a member here who is an attorney, reviewed the documentation and spoke with the CPA involved with this paperwork. He feels comfortable with the church accepting this bequest. The value of the gift would immediately be redeemed for marketable securities, managed by a broker we have. This is not unusual for a church to receive. Value of the partnership/LLC interest was \$547k, before final legal and tax expenses are deducted. If we move forward with accepting this gift, it would be less the amount of the legal and processing fees. We don't hold stock at the church. In this case, it is sold upon receipt, and upon the sale, the value is given to the church. We would meet with the account broker and review the market securities. Today is about blessing this decision to move forward.

- Step 1 is accepting the gift
- Step 2 is for the church leaders to process through the designation of the funds towards ministries.

Trustee Vote to Approve Acceptance of Gift – Steve Waters:

- MOTION 1: Renee Kizziar
- MOTION 2: Carrie Lobasso
- DECISION: Passes

Presentation of Resolution – Johnny Boyd / Steve Waters:



Handout reviewed as presentation of the resolution. Trustees have approved the process for moving forward. Promptly, we would redeem the interest designated to AHUMC.

End result is to accept this gift. This is a blessing that Doris thought of us in this way. *James Smith* asked if there is a way to honor Doris as part of this process, and several suggestions were shared. This desire will be shared with the staff for follow-up as a church.

Grow Together Campaign Update - Valerie Slade

Grow Together Campaign Fall Timeline:

- 3.3m raised on our tree decal in the atrium, each leaf represents \$100k!
- People from our church are on video stories, sharing what the church impact has been in their lives, and this will be shown on Sunday
- Oak trees are stationed in sanctuary, with seed paper where folks can give messages, praises, and prayers and place them base of the large planters. The oak trees will be planted on church property, along with the prayer and praise “seeds.”
- September 12 - Youth Ministry hosted a Dog Wash & Homemade Doggy Treat Event, raising \$1k in donations to gift to the church.
- Phone Call Invitations: 2 folks from our church are making calls to everyone on the roster,
 - Eileen Adams, 86 years old member
 - Elena, Leah Jayne’s granddaughter
- October 4 – Commitment Sunday. Ministry collections to be laid on the altar; Youth Ministry will present their dog wash earnings and there will be a Noisy Offering where the Children's Ministry will bring their piggy banks and shake them like maracas at the start of the service. Shadow & Pepper, Tina Larson’s black poodles, will ride on a float decorated like a school bus and lead the procession.
- September 20 at 4pm - Window of Prayers Walk. Linda Baumheckel & Janet Weatherston are hosting a very creative prayer vigil series where folks are invited to choose time slots and pray over the church. Prayer walk is to be around every space within this church facility, inviting the Holy Spirit to come into this place and for ministries to be blessed. Teams will follow a guidebook through the church, and return to the CLC to debrief. Each pew will be prayed over in the sanctuary. Please join us!
- *Linda Baumheckel* shared that everyone is equipped to pray! Prayer walking is inhabiting the space and talking to God, it doesn’t even have to be audible. Pray with your eyes. There will be little containers with anointing oil so that all the doorways can be anointed with the signs of the cross.



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- October 1, 2, 3, 7am-7pm – Windows of Prayer Vigil to be held over 3 days' time, starting in the Prayer Chapel. Anyone can contribute prayer from anywhere!
- November 1 – Celebration Sunday, hosted in church parking lot.

Note: Special invitations forthcoming for the above events.

Senior Pastor's Remarks – Jason Adams

There is a lot going on, and it really is a culmination of 18 months of work. God is doing amazing things in our midst, and hearts are joyful. Sunday October 4, is Commitment Sunday. November 1st is All Saints Day, and we will worship together at the 10:30 service; everyone will be together and we will have a blast. From there, we will move to the parking lot to celebrate what God is doing in our midst. Not sure why, but there will be a pastor dunking booth. Out of the gratefulness of our hearts, we find Joy in Christ.

Chairperson's Remarks – Johnny Boyd

GTC is similar growth to a pregnancy! The planning, waiting, decisions, periods of pain!

This coming celebration is good and God is Good!

On Growing Together:

Closing Prayer –Prayer about gratitude to God and for what God has done and is doing. When we look for Good, we find it!

Next Meeting: *Thursday, October 15, 2026, at 5pm in W100*