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Session Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2026
6:15 pm – 8 pm

**Members Present:** David Barnhart, Kris Bauman, Wendy Buckler, Dave Dillard, Jeff Freyschlag, Mary Frieg, Marguerite Hermanson, Peter Hurt, John Moe, Bonnie Ortivez, Susan Pattee, Bill Rhea, Angie Schweitzer, Kappy Stewart, Rev. Greg Hartnett, Rev. Mateen Elass, Rev. Dr. Tim McConnell, Rev. Ellen Dawson, Rev. Matt Holtzman, Elizabeth Roth

**Members Excused:** Mark Albers, Tom Amblad, Scott Berry, Shelly Busby, Leah Landolfi, Ken Laura, Kirk Cherry

**Guests Present:**

1. Part One: Reading and Prayer
    a. Isaiah 43:1-7 – Lectio Divina
    b. Prayer Requests

2. Part Two: Discernment — Tim McConnell

    a. Omnibus Motion – To Approve Written Reports
        i. Clerks Report and Minutes
        ii. Treasurer's Report
        iii. Ministry Team Notes
        iv. Kris Bauman moved to received reports as written; while pulling the Facilities and IT report and the clerks report, Margurite seconded the motion. Motion carried.
        v. Facilities and IT Report – the question was asked to see if the background report questions and policy got answered. Take the next ministry teams to see if they need help with background check. We will take the policy to Alignment team and HR team to see what we can do.
        vi. Clerks Report – need to breakdown to each service for the attendance notes.
        vii. Peter Hurt moved to approve the Facilities/IT report and

clerk report after discussion. Motion Carried.

b. New Business
    i. Original Ministry Team Motions:
        1. Facilities/IT team moves to accept the bid provided by Nunn construction for the renovation of Café 225
        2. Mission Engagement team moves to use up to $300,000 of the ESM funds for the proposed 225 project pending session approval
        3. Finance & Stewardship Team moves to approve the following funding plan for the Café 225 renovation for the concept of a counseling center, youth outreach and reactivating the Café:
            a. 1) To accept the Mission Team's allocation of approximately $300,000 of ESM funds to renovate Café 225.
            b. 2) To utilize approximately $300,000 of restricted funds from a family foundation gift.
            c. 3) To run a mini-capital campaign for approximately 40% of the remainder or approximately $400,000 with the church to cover the remainder.
    ii. Bill Rhea moved to table the motions to another meeting. Motion declined.
    iii. After Discussion and Amendment, Session approved the following motions:
        1. MOTION: *Facilities & IT Team moves that we accept the estimate provided by Nunn construction for the renovation of Café 225 and request a firm bid for a future vote.* Motion One carried
        2. MOTION: *Mission Engagement Team moves to use up to $300,000 of the ESM funds for the proposed 225 project pending session approval.* Motion Two carried.

3. MOTION: *Finance Team moves to approve the following funding plan for the Café 225 renovation for the concept of a counseling center, youth outreach- and reactivating the Café:1) To accept the Mission Team's allocation of approximately $300,000 of ESM funds to renovate Café 225. 2) To utilize approximately $300,000 of restricted funds from a family foundation gift. 3) To run a mini-capital campaign for the remainder or approximately $400,000.* Motion Three carried.
4. Peter Hurt moved to form a Café 225 task force. Motion seconded and carried.

iv. Taylor Trip Update – a group of Alignment team members (9 of us) went to Indiana to have an offsite time together and then went to the Next Summit at Taylor University.

c. Old Business
   i. Motion: Worship and Production moves to start using Giving Stations in the Worship Center rather than Offering Plates. *This was not discussed at this time.*
   ii. Assistant Pastor Search Updates- both teams up and running and processing candidates. We have deployed two of the admin team to build cold contact lists and going to move forward with a more direct recruiting method.
   iii. Presbytery/ECO National Gathering Representatives – Feb 1-3, 2027 in Irving Texas. Wendy Buckler, Susan Pattee, Shelly Busby, Mary Frieg. Margurite Hermanson moved the slate of elders listed to attend. Motion Seconded and Carried.

3. Part Three: Visioning -- Welcoming the Newcomer. What is missing?
   a. Discussion noted challenges around wayfinding, Blong Hub visibility, and navigating to Kids Ministry spaces. Noted the need for more volunteers to participate in hospitality ministry and recommended solutions. Desire to see a stronger culture of

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hospitality and connection among the congregation.

Closed in prayer at 8:47 pm

UPCOMING DATES:
Communion Dates: October 4, December 6, December 24, January 10
Sermon Series Continues - Life Together (Aug 23- Oct 25); In the Company of Friends (Nov 1- Nov 22); What Can I Give (Nov 29 - Jan 3)
CityWide Worship - First Pres Sanctuary - Oct 2
ECO National Gathering – Feb 1-3, 2027
Next Session Meeting: October 20, 2026