

Thalia United Methodist Church

Leadership Meeting Minutes

July 28, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark McKinney.

In attendance: Cameron Brown, Autaya Chaplin, Rev. Megan Collins, Jerry Ditty, Barbara Jennings, John Martin, Mark McKinney, and Bill Shewchuk via Zoom. Member Christine Shultis was absent and excused. Also present was guest Mary Harryman.

For the spiritual formation moment, Barbara Jennings presented a reading from the book "The Universal Christ" by Richard Rohr, followed by the opening prayer.

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved following a motion to approve from Jerry Ditty, seconded by Autaya Chaplin.

Mary Harryman was called on to make a presentation to the team on the possibility of Thalia UMC participating in the Winter Shelter Ministry, a program sponsored by the People in Need (PIN) Ministry. The PIN ministry has asked if TUMC can be on standby to provide back-up overnight shelter to the homeless when the temperature goes below freezing, and schools are closed due to snow. The PIN ministry will provide staff and meals, but TUMC would provide at least one male and one female church member, as well. Mary had some PIN Ministry fund-raising materials for the team. She was authorized to place the materials in the church to encourage donations from the congregation. Following a discussion, it was decided that the team will get back to Mary regarding whether or not the request for participation in the winter shelter is approved. Mary was excused from the meeting.

Megan gave the pastor's report. She indicated that during her first month at TUMC, she felt warmly welcomed. She stated that she met with two members of the Dayschool Committee in order to become familiar with the Child Protection Policy. She then asked about the connection cards that the congregation members turn in, and if they are saved and where.

John Martin gave the Treasurer's Report. He indicated that June was a "break-even" month, but that apportionments have not been paid for four months. He then stated that he is working on a report for the Virginia Beach Circuit Court Clerk which will update church trustee information and facilitate the sale of the parsonage, and that the parsonage utilities have been transferred to the church. He stated that TUMC has money in our capital improvements funds to make repairs and stage the parsonage for sale. Our General Fund remains in the negative for the year.

A discussion was held concerning the sale of the parsonage. Mark McKinney presented two options regarding the sale:

Option 1 – perform the needed repairs, which include painting, some carpeting, and landscaping, or

Option 2 – selling the house as-is to a neighbor who has expressed an interest in buying it.

A motion was made by Jerry Ditty and seconded by Cameron Brown to go with Option 2 – to offer it as-is at a starting price of \$595,000, with the authorization to accept \$575,000. If the offer is rejected then we will make the repairs and work with a realtor.

The team then discussed the Spiritual Gifts and Leadership Components Assessments and a team meeting was scheduled for August 24, 2025 immediately following the 10:30 worship service for the purpose of conducting a visioning process.

Bill Shewchuk announced that he is going to Mozambique with an F4O team in October.

Pastor Megan announced that our 2025 Charge Conference will be held on November 18, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at Lynnhaven United Methodist Church. The conference will be in person.

The team then went into executive session to discuss SPPRC matters.

Following the executive session, the meeting was adjourned with a closing prayer.

Thalia United Methodist Church  
Leadership Team Executive Session Minutes

July 28, 2025

Pastor Megan gave an update on church staffing indicating that TUMC is in need of a part-time administrative assistant. Since coming to TUMC, she has observed that the church simply doesn't have the staff to cover all functions, including the operation of the website. She brought up an idea whereby TUMC might be able to share a part-time assistant with another church.

She then expressed the need for the employee handbook to be updated and for job descriptions for all positions to be developed. Meg Ditty and Barbara Jennings will assist with a review of the handbook. As part of this review, Megan requested that the church consider giving paid vacation time to part-time staff.