

Cathedral of Hope
Board of Stewards Meeting
September 22, 2025

Agenda

Regular Session

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Time</u>
1) Call to Order/Roll Call/Opening Prayer		
2) Agenda Approval	Action	1 min
3) Consent Agenda Approval	Action	5 min
4) Committee Updates Discussion	Discussion	15 min
a) Committee Members and/or Board Committee Liaisons		
5) Finance Report	Discussion	15 min
a) Brian Lewin and Randal Langdon		
i) Combined Financial Statement attached		
6) Church Report	Discussion	30 min
a) Rev. Dr. Neil G. Thomas		
i) Growth and Strategy Report		
7) Continuing Business	Discussion	15 min
a) Lighting project		
b) Columbarium project		
8) New business	Action	5 min
a) None		
9) Adjourn	Action	1 min
10) Congregational Questions		

Consent Agenda Items

- 1) Acceptance of 8.25.25 meeting minutes: Attached
- 2) Board Working Sessions meeting minutes:
 - a) None
- 3) Acceptance of committee reports, where applicable
 - a) Strategic Planning: Report not submitted
 - b) Personnel: Report not submitted
 - c) Development: Report not submitted
 - d) Bylaws: Report not submitted
 - e) Building & Grounds: Report not submitted
 - f) Congregational Enhancement: Report not submitted
 - g) Finance Committee: Report not submitted

Cathedral of Hope
Board of Stewards Meeting Minutes
August 25, 2025

Regular Session

Attendance:

X	Dana Goodenow, Chair		Dusty Darrow, Vice Chair	X	Brian Lewin, Treasurer
X	Greg Gifford, Secretary	X	Ronald Myles	X	Jon Nelson
X	Vicki Saulnier	X	Doug Waite	X	Angela Whorton
X	Rev. Neil Thomas				

- 1) Call to order/Opening Prayer
 - a) Dana Goodenow called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM
 - b) Greg Gifford took the roll call (8 present)
- 2) Agenda
 - Motion: Approve Agenda
 - Made by: Angela Whorton
 - Seconded by: Jon Nelson
 - Vote (Y/N/A): 8 /0/0 – Motion Approved
- 3) Consent Agenda
 - Motion: Approve Consent Agenda
 - Made by: Brian Lewin
 - Seconded by: Vicki Saulnier
 - Vote (Y/N/A): 8 /0/0 – Motion Approved
- 4) Acceptance of July 28, 2025 meeting minutes
 - a) Vestment used in error in financial report. Corrected to *investment*
- 5) Committee reports
 - a) Reports received from: Congregational Enhancement Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, Personnel Committee, Development Committee, Finance Committee, Building and Grounds Committee.
 - b) Committee Updates and Discussion:
 - Development Committee:
 - Update on [tribute page](#). Discussion with Randal on how best to go about improving tributes and Randal and staff jumped on the page and made updates
 - Congregational Enhancement Committee
 - Finalized purpose and looking to provide to the board next month to approve
 - Strategic Planning Committee
 - Dana will serve as committee liaison
- 6) Financial Report – Brian and Randal
 - a) Contribution income for July 2025 exceeds July 2024
 - \$34,558, up 26.6%
 - b) Revenue exceeded budget by almost \$3,400
 - c) Expenses for YTD is due to variance by \$44k due to maintenance that was unplanned and essential
 - d) Overall, financial picture looks great.
 - Additional updates from Randal:

- \$ 3.6 million in financial assets is a record high
- Diversified income has given us flexibility and 32% of income is other related from revenue streams such as venue rental and events
- August will be challenging for contribution income

e) Church Report – Rev. Neil

- Completing out 2025 dashboard and nearing end of strategic plan. Engaging consultants to determine how best to do that work will be the work of the SP committee.
- Be The Church is our theme and this particular year and it is showing through increases in attendance throughout the year and stability of finances.
- Workshop attendance numbers remain steady
- The church has received additional pledges in the past month
- What makes COH unique statement. We have lived into this statement and have communicated that.
- We have added 20 new members this past Sunday, in the middle of summer. This points to the stability of the church.

7) Continuing Business

a) Building and Grounds Engaged in 2 projects

- Lighting Project
 - Bids and designs were received just over a year ago. Lighting engineers have been reengaged to update designs and bids due to technology changes and length of time since original bid
 - Expecting first bid back in about 10 days. Engineers are being sent back into the building to reassess and apply new technology engineering.

b) Columbarium Project

- This has been on hold due to bandwidth and focus on lighting project.

8) New Business

a) Ronald Myles is stepping back from clerk and Greg has agreed to take on that role

b) Greg is taking over clerk responsibilities and we will need to backfill the SP committee liaison role. Dana has volunteered to take on that role.

- Motion to appoint Greg Gifford as Board Clerk
 - Motion by: Vicki Sauliner
 - Second by: Ronald Myles
 - Vote (Y/N/A): 8/0/0 - Motion Approved

9) Motion to Adjourn

- a) Made by: Brian Lewin
- b) Second by: Angela Whorton
- c) Vote (Y/N/A): 8/0/0 – Motion Approved

CATHEDRAL OF HOPE

A CONGREGATION OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

To: Rev. Dr. Neil Thomas, Senior Pastor
Cc: Rev. Dr. Andria Davis, Executive Pastor for Digital Experience and Worship
Cathedral of Hope Strategic Planning Committee
From: Rev. Dr. Dawson B. Taylor, Associate Pastor for Church Growth & Strategy
Re: Church Growth and Strategy Report – September 2025
Date: September 22, 2025
Attachment: August 2025 Dashboard

Vision 2025 Dashboard:

We are continuing to build out the Vision 2025 Dashboard. Many thanks to my staff colleagues, Rev. Dr. Andria Davis and Randall Langdon for helping update it. As we look to the next strategic plan, we are working hard to ensure that we have tracked all appropriate data for the current strategic plan to help inform our next strategic plan. The Strategic Planning Committee is now meeting monthly to help track and guide these efforts.

The Strategic Planning Committee met last week with Dana in attendance and had a fantastic dialogue about next steps regarding the strategic planning for 2030. The Strategic Planning Committee has begun laying groundwork to receive at least three strategic planning bids to move to the board with recommendations later this year.

Highlights:

- (1) We have seen a slight dip in our weekly attendance and first-time visitors. Based on historical data as well as experience, this is likely nothing more than a summer slump that we anticipated. Don't forget that this report shows the August attendance numbers, which is historically our lowest attendance month. We have already begun to see upticks in attendance.
- (2) Interesting to note, however, is that our first time visitors has begun to really rise. While attendance has been depressed somewhat this summer, our first time visitors is increasing. This is a very healthy sign.
- (3) An additional note regarding worship attendance is what the Spanish-speaking part of our congregation is experiencing. While not growing now, they remain very stable. Recently in a clergy team meeting we had honest conversation and insight about what the fear that some in that part of our congregation are experiencing. For those living in fear to continue to show up for worship is a phenomenal sign of their commitment to our church.