**Minutes of the Visioning Committee**
**Front Street United Methodist Church**
**October 22, 2026**

The Visioning Committee met at 7:00 p.m. in Room 402 with the following persons in attendance:

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| Lee Conner, Chair | Curtis Price | Shane Stadler |
| Steve Cecil, Vice-Chair | William Inabnit | Julia Huneycutt |
| Rev. Ray Warren | Tom Sineath | Carol Sineath |
| Rev. Daniel Polito | Gary Harris | Marianna Harris |
| Mellisa Miller | Dex Peach | Caroline Conner |
| Jan Davis | Rett Davis | Betty Massey |

## OPENING

Lee greeted everyone and Pastor Ray offered a prayer for guidance. Lee reminded the committee that typically, we do not meet during November and December (except for the annual charge conference which will be at 3:00 pm on Sunday, November 8th, in Aldersgate). However, if a need arises that necessitates a meeting, please contact Pastor Ray or Lee to discuss.

## SEPTEMBER MINUTE APPROVAL

A motion was made by Steve and seconded by Carol to accept the prior month's minutes as written and was unanimously approved.

## YOUTH

Caroline started the committee reports by commenting that our annual Pack-A-Thon with Feed the Hunger was this past Sunday. This is a great inter-generational event hosted by our Youth Group and we packed over 15,000 meals! This coming Sunday will be carve-a-pumpkin. Breakfast club continues to meet on Wednesdays at Biscuitville on Huffman Mill Road at 8 am. Daniel added that upcoming events include Christmas Cheer shopping and a party!

Caroline also gave an update on the Community Medical Closet – so far, 150 devices have been given out, representing around $25,000 in free medical equipment! Our supply is dwindling (which is a good thing because that means needs are being met in our community), however we need more items. Current needs are rollators and wheelchairs! Please donate if you have items that are no longer needed in your home!

## PLAYSCHOOL

Julia reported that Playschool committee would meet next week. We have scaled back on the Parent Collective from last year, which was rather ambitious, and it is working better.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Melissa had much to share on our children's ministry, starting with

- Our Sunday morning check-in and check-out policy is working well for Sunday School and Nursery during both worship services, as we now lock the doors to our children's classrooms for added security.
- C4C—Eastlawn—since this elementary school does not have a parent/teacher organization and does not have funds for classroom/teacher support, our involvement through "Congregations for Children" allows us to adopt these teachers, aides and students while providing much needed emotional support. So far this school year, we have provided teachers with snacks twice and this week will be our 4th Friday of sending weekend food bags home with students. We have 134 families on the list for backpack food. Please be generous with regular sized items for the young children to carry.
- Fresh Mobile Market—our monthly food ministry—served 159 families yesterday before running out of food (5,500 pounds of food distributed!). In addition to the normal car line, yesterday we also served a number of Eastlawn staff, teacher assistants, janitorial, and cafeteria staff.
- Thanksgiving meals—plans to distribute on November 20th— we have enough funds from last year to cover the costs, but need volunteers willing to shop, bag and give out the meals —please contact Melissa if you have interest and can help!
- Little Lambs Playgroup—the Fall event at Camp Chestnut Ridge has been rescheduled to Halloween morning 10-12 noon— kids may wear costumes!
- Dinner Bell Farm upcoming—November 15th.
- More events to be planned—perhaps on November 29th and sometime in December.
- Parenting Circle—starting "Faith Every Day" this coming Sunday during Sunday School.
- Children's Choir will be starting back in November with Mary Moorhouse leading our youngest singers! Practice will be Sunday mornings. More to come!
- Playschool is full! We have a few more Coupon books for our fundraiser – please see Melissa —only $25.00 each.

All is going well with Children's ministry! YAY!

## FINANCE

William shared that we currently a deficit of approximately $131,000 in meeting the year-to-date budget, however compared to this time last year (which had a $267,000 deficit), all is shaping up well and we project to meet the 2026 budget costs by end of year. December and January are typically our highest months of giving. Note: replacing the HVAC system in the Sanctuary is projected to cost $90-100,000. However, we have the funds designated for these types of expenses and thankfully they are not used often. This is another blessing and benefit of those who came before us and planned ahead to provide these funds.

## TRUSTEES

Jan said that the Trustees will be meeting next week. She just completed the 2026 annual report for the Conference, and the questionnaire had been revamped to include a much more detailed inspection of the parsonage, which called for an "attic to basement" review. That said, the required persons met and walked through the house noting a number of mostly minor items (such as light fixtures, ceiling fan, chimney cleaning) to repair and a few major ones (such as replacement of back porch rotted wood railing).

## LAY LEADERSHIP

Rett shared that his Monday night Bible study group led a breakfast for our next door neighbors at the Fire Station. The breakfast was held over 3 days to serve all 3 on-duty shifts. Donations received resulted in an excess of $350 which was then donated to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. We appreciate our firefighter neighbors, and they have assisted us twice in the recent months!

## MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP

Daniel reported:

- In the Discipleship world, Faithful Families is meeting and they are now using "Compass Podcast" to help discussions. Families are encouraged to listen to the podcast prior to meeting so they can discuss the topics.
- Bishop Connie Shelton will be preaching on November 8th at both worship services. Her husband, the Rev. Joey Shelton, will be leading a joint Sunday School that day to explain what Christian Nationalism is all about.
- Later on November 8th, the church will host its Annual Charge Conference at 3:00 pm. All are welcome—leadership is encouraged to attend.
- All Saints Day is November 1st.

- Youth – planning big trips for next year, the first being possibly over Martin Luther King Jr. weekend. ASP will hopefully be expanding into an intergenerational event next year. We may be adding a youth intern—more to come!
- Market for Missions—(November 14th, 10 am–3 pm)—meeting this Sunday at 3:00 pm for all interested in helping in some capacity! All vendor spaces are full and we have a waiting list! United Methodist Women is helping with casseroles and more! Please get involved if you are not already!
- Sanctuary Project continues well. This is an ecumenical effort to keep housed people housed, with assistance with rent and utilities. They are looking into funding and possible grants opportunities.

## SENIOR PASTOR

Pastor Ray shared that some of our members may not be aware why our church is so involved with Eastlawn Elementary. As part of Congregations for Children (C4C), we offer assistance to a local public school which is lacking in funding and support. This is one of the poorest student bodies in the county, and the school has gone through numerous administrative changes. It has no parent-teacher organization to provide support and we have stepped into the role where God has led us to provide support these teachers and students while we seek to make a positive difference in their lives!

This past Sunday, after his 2nd sermon on generosity, he shared that a woman who had been substitute teaching (and was very much sought after by teachers in her school, and loved by her students) was no longer able to substitute because her husband had dementia and she could no longer leave him alone during the day. She was in her 70's and had to take a night job so he would be asleep while she was working. God had placed her needs on his heart, and although he had not asked for others to help, by the end of the morning, people in the congregation had approached him and collectively pledged $20,000 to assist her! Adult day care costs average $105 per day, so we thank God for his grace and your generosity.

Pastor Ray was sharing examples of generous people, and asked Shane to share a beautiful story of his father, Virgil Stadler. As Ray said, "Those of us who live in abundance are called to extravagant generosity."

Congregational care—Hospice has been called in for June West. She is ready and we are asked to be in prayer for her and her family.

This Sunday will be accepting estimate of giving cards for 2027. We have been working hard to decrease unnecessary expenses while increasing revenues. Thanks to William and all of the committees for their hard work. Please be in prayer as God lays on your heart how to respond to his grace with our generosity—time, talents, finances, prayer, involvement, service, witness.

## GENERAL COMMENTS

Tom shared that the Wheelchair Ministry has been given an aluminum wheelchair ramp. He is looking for an opportunity to use this over the next several months as an appropriate project arises. The next ramp build may be on November 7th, but a more definite date will be announced.

Rett said that he was asked to bring up the matter of hand clapping in the sanctuary during worship. A discussion was held and all present agreed that we as the body of Christ are accommodating and tolerant of one another's preferences in how we choose to express joy and praise to God. Some people clap out of joy and thanksgiving, others say "Amen" or "Praise God" and others prefer to remain quiet. We want everyone to feel comfortable in this holy space and so we will accommodate all and be as inclusive as possible.

## CALLED CHARGE CONFERENCE

A brief called charge conference was conducted by Pastor Ray as the Elder in Charge for the sole purpose of hearing a motion brought by the Staff Parish Relations Committee. Curtis brought the motion to include Daniel's continuing education compensation of $1,000 for the 2026-2027 appointment year. While this was included in our budget, it had not papered. The motion did not need a second, and was passed unanimously.

## CLOSING

Lee closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betty Massey
Recording Secretary