

**Minutes of the Visioning Committee
Front Street United Methodist Church
February 26, 2026**

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

Lee Conner, Chair	Pastor Ray Warren	Daniel Polito
Gary Harris	Marianna Harris	Dex Peach
Jan Davis	Rett Davis	William Inabnit
Tom Sineath	Carol Sineath	Matt Estes
Chris Huneycutt	Julia Huneycutt	Marty Strickland
Curtis Price	Charles Canaday	David Cross
Betty Massey		

OPENING

Lee greeted everyone and Pastor Ray opened the meeting with prayer.

JANUARY MINUTES APPROVAL

A motion was made and seconded to accept the January 2026 minutes as written and was unanimously passed.

MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP

Daniel began the reports by sharing that our confirmation class had 5 youth in attendance during the Confirmation Retreat last weekend at Camp Chestnut Ridge in Efland. Confirmation Sunday will be May 17th.

Aldersgate worship service continues to be strong, and he and Josh will be fine tuning some of the technical aspects.

Market For Missions has a steering committee that is meeting who have set a goal to fill key roles by the end of April for this event to happen in the Fall! If not, this event cannot happen due to the amount of coordination and on-hands participation required. Please be open and willing to commit to help continue this fabulous holiday fundraiser for missions, as Suzie will not be spearheading this year, and it will take many active hands to pull this off.

Youth will continue a mini-series on spiritual practices to tie in with Lent.

Wednesday Bible Study (evening), as well as the *At the Table* videos and sermon series, are tying together the themes from the book “An Unlikely Lent” – to keep the message coherent.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Matt shared that the children's choir will be singing Sunday in 2 parts, which is the first time since he joined us that the children have done this. Handbells will perform each month on the 3rd Sunday. And this Sunday, our Elon students in the adult choir will be showcasing their individual talents with solos during an anthem.

FELLOWSHIP

Carol shared that our next 5th Sunday Fellowship gathering will be on Palm Sunday, March 29, in Aldersgate Hall between worship services in lieu of Sunday School, and Melissa will have a children's activity during the gathering as well.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE / WHEELCHAIR RAMP MINISTRY

Tom stated that due to the need for the Conference to maintain equality between clergy and lay people, Carol will be attending again as a voting delegate.

The Wheelchair Ramp Ministry continues strong and extends an invitation to anyone to volunteer and join whenever they can. One interesting note is that a Baptist group that also builds ramps mentioned that when they build a ramp, each volunteer signs a Bible and they present the Bible to the person whom they built the ramp. Tom stated they may consider this also, as we currently place a small plaque on the ramp stating that the ramp was built to the glory of God, but does not state that our church actually built it.

LAY LEADER

Rett shared that the Fresh Mobile Market held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Presbyterian church across from Eastlawn Elementary, continues to feed between 115-125 cars/families per month. There are 15-20 dedicated volunteers that regularly serve each month, rain or shine. More volunteers are always welcome! Just show up!

Also, Rett has been teaching Bible study to the 3 & 4 year olds at Playschool. (We greatly appreciate his willingness to accept the invitation to serve!)

TRUSTEES

Jan shared that the Trustees met and approved the following projects that are moving forward:

- The Heritage Room repainting and revamping will probably happen during the summer.

- Ten organ pipes in the sanctuary need to be repaired, Matt is obtaining two quotes, and will then work with Gene Fonville to move forward with the repair, which may not take place until 2027, as this is a Harrison organ and it can take some time to schedule the work.
- Parsonage — master bath — Gene is working on this.
- As approved last year, one of the three church vehicles (the silver van) has now been sold at fair market price and proceeds will be returned to the designated fund.

As with all of the above projects, the costs and expenses do not come out of the annual church operating budget but rather from specific funds designated for such items.

TREASURER REPORT

William stated that the month of January 2026 actually ended in the positive! However, with the extremely cold, snowy weather, and Duke Energy's rate increase, we had the largest heating bill ever last month - \$7,600! The thermostat is pneumatic and may have failed to turn off. Also, it is suspected that because our boiler requires a certain level of pressure, due to high demand during the snow and low temperatures, the pressure may have slipped below and thus failed to heat the building for 2 days. Repairs have been made and we now have a new thermostat! Pray for our building systems!

SPRC

Curtis said that our Staff Parish Relations committee has not met yet, having been snowed out. But the good news is that nothing is really on the table needing attention!

FINANCE

Charles Canday has taken over leadership from Curtis (thanks to Curtis for heading this committee for the past 5 years!) and noted that December was \$30,000 to the positive. Many thanks to last year's committee for having creatively reduced the operating budget by \$200,000. We are hopefully on track this year to meet our proposed 2026 budget and still deliver all programs and ministries.

PLAY SCHOOL / VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Julia shared as co-director of Vacation Bible School this year, the dates will be August 3rd -7th. We will need many volunteers, both now and during the actual week of VBS. There are lots

of planning and crafting positions open, as well as other opportunities to serve! Please step up and contact Julia, Taylor Wilson, or Nancy Wilson to volunteer

The Playschool Board is meeting and sharing. Registration is full for 2026-27 and a waitlist has already been started, despite the cost of tuition being increased to be more competitive with other local programs. This speaks highly of the community's faith in our programs.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Lee shared the following report for Melissa, who could not be present this evening:

- Lenten children's Bible Study.
- Little Lambs Playgroup starts on Saturday, March 7 at 10–11:30 am
- Camp Chestnutt Ridge — Front Street's week is July 13-17. Filling up, so register quickly!
- Winter games — more to come.
- Children's Sunday School — learning and building.
- Acolytes needed to sign up for services — may consider alternative schedule next year.
- C4C – we have over 100 families on the list for food each week. The need is great and each week we are in need of consistent donations to meet this need.
- Eastlawn teacher support.
- Playschool Sunday — April 19th when we will be inviting Playschool families and teachers to join us in worship. Please welcome our guests, invite them to other activities, and get to know one another.

YOUTH MINISTER

Chris shared that Breakfast Club is going strong — a slow day would be 17-18 youth attending. On Ash Wednesday, ashes were imposed and there was a homeless gentleman inside the restaurant (having left his bicycle outside), and Chris observed several of the youth approach him from time to time and ask if he needed anything — no suggestion, no prompting — these youth reached out the hand of Jesus to a stranger. This is why Breakfast Club matters!

Youth served at the Pancake Supper. ASP has nine youth signed up and four adults. Would like to have more youth and another adult, as ideally we would like to have three teams! If anyone out there is interested — now is the time to speak up!

LEAD PASTOR

Pastor Ray thanked those who were aware of his mother's illness. She is doing better.

Much appreciation to Betsy Huneycutt for her assistance in getting his mother a place for rehabilitation.

Many thanks to Josh and Daniel for leading our Ash Wednesday Service. Pastor Ray received many compliments on Josh's inspiring message! Approximately 40 people received ashes at Salvation Coffee shop during "Ash and Dash", another 10 or so attended early 7 a.m. service and another 60-70 attended the 7 p.m. traditional service in the sanctuary.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Pastor Ray posed the suggestion on whether or not this committee needed to continue to meet monthly, as the individual committees meet monthly and handle their business. In many other churches, the board does not meet as often. We do not meet in November or December after the annual Charge Conference. After discussion, it was decided that the Visioning Committee will not plan to meet in June or July, and a meeting can be called if a specific need arises.

Rett mentioned that a Graham church was coming over this week to look at our columbarium as they may be interested in something similar. What an encouragement to know that our renovations have sparked interest with other congregations.

Also, he asked if the fire department (next door) still comes over and plays basketball in our gym, and yes – they do after pickle ball is over. It's good to know that we can provide some exercise and entertainment for our first responder neighbors!

CLOSING

Daniel offered the closing prayer. Prior to ending the meeting, Lee asked for prayers for his family as son James' health improves and they travel for the memorial service for Lee's father.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betty Massey
Recording Secretary