

**Minutes of the Visioning Committee**  
**Front Street United Methodist Church**  
**May 28, 2026**

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

Lee Conner, Chair	William Inabnit	Curtis Price
Steve Cecil	Gary Harris	Marianna Harris
Rev. Ray Warren	Tom Sineath	Carol Sineath
Melissa Miller	Dex Peach	Julia Huneycutt
Jan Davis	Rett Davis	Marty Stickland
Shane Stadler	David Cross	Betty Massey

OPENING

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

APRIL MINUTES APPROVAL

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

YOUTH MINISTER

Lee shared a report from Chris, who was not present as he was helping with the Powder Puff game at Williams High School, always supporting our youth and their activities! The end-of-year party had 23 kids present, which was a big increase from last year! Average attendance for Sunday evening youth meetings was 14 and 18 for attendance at the Wednesday morning Breakfast Club at Biscuitville on Huffman Mill. We have 15 high school graduates participating in Sunday's 11:00 worship service for Senior Sunday on May 31st. We expect 65-70 total for the actual Senior Breakfast with parents and families.

Chris fully supports the transition of the Youth Ministry to Daniel and is excited for the youth to have the opportunity to get to know him better. He is confident that the ministry and its youth will be in good hands under Daniel's leadership. Daniel already has plans to meet monthly at Chick-Fil-A for "Bird and the Word" suppers. More information to come!

The Vision Committee members expressed their sincere gratitude and praise for Chris and what he had done with and for our youth over the past 20 years! [A surprise recognition will be incorporated into Senior Sunday to honor Chris, even though he wants this to only be about the youth, because he has touched so many lives as a positive Christian role model.]

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Tom shared that the 2026 Annual Conference Outreach Project is collecting school supplies for school kits. A list of the specific items needed will be provided to the congregation as a mission opportunity for participation. Tom and Carol will transport the donated supplies to Annual Conference for distribution.

## FELLOWSHIP

Carol advised that the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in May (31<sup>st</sup>) is also Senior Sunday. The fellowship hour will be a combined celebration with the Seniors in the Heritage Center immediately following the 11:00 worship service rather than between the 9:00 am and 11:00 am services.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Julia encouraged everyone to get the word out on enrolling for Vacation Bible School so that we will know how many to accommodate and get the appropriate number of volunteers. This year may be a smaller group due to the later dates. Playschool finishes this week and there is a waiting list for the Fall with only a few openings remaining (4 year old class). Playschool will conduct 3 summer camp weeks this year.

Melissa reported the following: Playschool is going well and that Staci is doing a great job at managing the program and handling the budget well. We transferred remaining funds from the Afterschool and Summer Day Camp programs to help with the finances.

Please get the word out that we really need parents and grandparents to register their children for VBS so we can properly staff with volunteers. Kudos to Daniel, Chris and Josh for encouraging our youth to help out. It is great to see the older youth assisting the younger ones!

Sunday School is going strong—the last week of regular Sunday School will be May 31<sup>st</sup> before Summer Sunday School begins on June 7<sup>th</sup>. In order to give the Sunday School teachers a well-deserved break, Summer Sunday School will be one room Sunday School up to 5<sup>th</sup> grade—more to come.

Melissa shared that Rett helped (Playschool) with Chapel and his bird songs were a big hit among the kids.

Children's Church will take a break and be reconsidered as the need arises. Many families with very young children have been attending Aldersgate at 9:00 a.m. and those families in the traditional 11:00 a.m. worship service have been keeping their children in the sanctuary. Including children in the worship service helps them learn the meaning and practices of worship through active participation.

C4C still active and strong—Fresh Mobile Market served 115 families last week in the extreme heat. Thanks to the dedicated volunteers braving the weather!

Eastlawn Backpacks are packed for the remainder of the school year—using up all food we have on the shelves. No new food collection during June—will go through surplus items to

check expiration dates and restart the food collection in July to get the shelves stocked and ready for the new school year! Please be mindful of the ongoing needs of our community partners.

Eastlawn Elementary 5<sup>th</sup> grade promotion will be held next Thursday in the sanctuary. Volunteers are needed for refreshments, parking, and greeting of parents.

Little Lambs Playgroup continues to meet once a month for children birth-4 years old, their older siblings and parents. This is a group to build relationships with families on Saturday morning. We invite Playschool and Front Street families to join in community and extend an invitation to those who have similarly aged children for fellowship and socializing in a supportive Christian atmosphere.

#### FINANCE

William stated that the church is overall in good financial shape, better than the past several years. We paid off the loan at Atlantic Union Bank, which freed up the line of credit which we usually tap into during the summer months when contributions often fall behind. Having made hard decisions over the past 2 years which cut approximately \$200,000 from our expenses has put us in a solid position to meet this year's budget through projected member contributions.

Discussion was held regarding how we report the church's monthly financial status to the congregation as we strive to break even each year. All present agreed to show year-to-date budget vs. actual year-to-date contributions.

Also, everyone acknowledged the hard work that William constantly puts into managing the finances and funds for the church and thanked him for his dedication.

#### TRUSTEES

Jan reported that the Trustees latest meeting was April 27<sup>th</sup>. Most items discussed were from Building and Grounds. The agreement with Duncan Exxon regarding parking is progressing. The Heritage Center refurbishment has a budget of \$35,000, which includes estimates for painting (\$5,300), carpet (\$6,000) and furniture (\$15,000). Committee will meet in 2 weeks for update.

Organ pipe repairs—going with second quote of \$26,000 (\$10,000 less than first company's quote) from a company in Durham, so less travel and shipment costs. Congregation should not notice any sound changes while pipes removed for repair as Matt has not been playing those notes, but once they are restored, we should expect to hear more beautiful notes that have been silent too long!

Parsonage is having master bedroom and bath remodeled, adding a shower and updates.

A keypad has been added to the door next to the playground for safety of our children.

Church attendance for both Sunday worship services is up this year with 23 more individuals attending at least one of the services.

A member expressed sincere appreciation to Hannah Reeves, our Building Superintendent, for her dedicated care of the church gardens, both the Chandler Garden at the entrance and the Memory Garden in the columbarium. Hannah takes special care of these plants

and flowers and really goes above and beyond her many duties with her gifts! Thank you, Hannah!

#### LAY LEADER

Rett shared that he was contacted by a member of another UMC in Montgomery County (where he worked many years ago) for his advice regarding their columbarium. Word travels. Also, as God works in beautiful and unseen ways, Jan also was able to connect with someone from many years past at just the right moment. We thank God for his connections.

#### MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP

Lee read a report from Daniel, highlighting the following:

Faithful Families has finished their first book study and will continue to meet through summer and introduce a Bible study in the Fall. The youth side has struggled and may pause during the summer, possibly returning in the fall.

Discipleship Book Club will be on July 19 and August 23. We will be reading and discussing *Life of the Beloved* by Henri Nouwen and *Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. More to come.

Front Street Family Night Out will be at the Burlington Sock Puppets Game on July 26! Tickets are free for all and include all you can eat food! Make plans to attend a night of fun!

Youth had a great beach trip! Looking forward to Senior Sunday! Confirmation Sunday went really well with 5 youth professing their faith and joining the church! Bird & The Word (dinner & devotional) is planned for July and August on Wednesday evenings at Chick Fil A on Huffman Mill Road. Planning for 2026-27 is coming along well. Daniel expressed gratitude for Chris and his leadership of the Youth Ministry and he looks forward to continuing to serve alongside Josh!

Worship—New Member Sunday on May 24 added 8 people to our congregation – a family of 6 and 2 individuals. This sparked a lot of interest and we anticipate more people joining throughout the year! Planning for worship for remainder of 2026 coming along well.

Missions—ASP is coming up June 21-28. Please be in prayer for youth teams and adult chaperones!

#### STAFF PARISH RELATIONS

Curtis advised that in June, Daniel will be reaching a milestone on his journey toward ordination when he will be appointed as a provisional deacon by the North Carolina Conference to Front Street UMC. And in order to meet the minimum salary requirements for the North Carolina Conference, Curtis brought the following recommendation and motion from SPRC: “The SPRC moves to set our Minister of Discipleship’s salary to the minimum Conference requirement for full-time clergy service, \$52,800.00 effective beginning July 1, 2026.” As the

motion was brought through committee, no second was needed. Discussion was held and no increase to the budget will occur as Chris is retiring as Youth Minister and his position had been budgeted through 2026. The motion was passed unanimously. A Called Charge Conference was held immediately following the Vision Committee Meeting in order to set the associate clergy salary.

#### GENERAL COMMENTS

Gary recommended that a formal expression of appreciation be extended to Chris for his many years of service to our youth. The recommendation was unanimously supported by those in attendance.

Lee shared for Caroline that our Community Medical Closet is currently full! While supplies do ebb and flow, we need to pass the word to any groups and organizations that may know of individuals who can use these items. Please share!

Also, Williams High School used our building last night for a year end celebration. Eastlawn Elementary will be using the sanctuary for promotion on Thursday. We are honored to be able to provide a place for our education partners to share.

#### LEAD PASTOR

Pastor Ray shared the following: His mother experienced another mild stroke, please keep her in prayer. Also, an EEOC complaint filed by a former employee has now been resolved through mediation. Other congregational concerns: Judy Pratt having carpal tunnel surgery and Brian Conlon having heart catheterization. Please keep all in prayer.

Upcoming sermon series: the Wilderness Diaries will finish up this Sunday. The next series will be 4 weeks on “Who is Jesus?” Then we will focus on “Using Our Gifts for God’s Mission.” And in the Fall, we will discuss “The Good Life.”

#### CLOSING

Lee reminded all that we will not meet during June and July. Our next scheduled meeting will be August 27, 2026. Rett closed the meeting with a beautiful and joyous prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betty Massey  
Recording Secretary