

**Minutes of the Visioning Committee
Front Street United Methodist Church
September 25, 2025**

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

Jim Roberson, Chair	Ray Warren	Sean Hardy
Marianna Harris	Betty Huneycutt	Chris Huneycutt
Gary Harris	Melissa Miller	Carol Sineath
Tom Sineath	Scott Self	Marti Strickland

OPENING

Jim opened the meeting with prayer. A motion to accept the August minutes, with a minor clarification noted by Carol, was made and passed unanimously.

BETTY MASSEY'S ABSENCE

Jim reported that Betty Massey, our Recording Secretary, was unable to attend tonight's meeting and that he would take the minutes. Betty's mother had a fall requiring a trip to the hospital to check her out. Understandably, Betty has needed to be away to attend to her mother's situation. She did not suffer a break, but her fall, soreness and age have led to a number of decisions that have to be made. These will occupy Betty's focus in the coming days. Jim requested that we keep Betty, her mother and the family in our prayers.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Carol and Tom both had no specific report regarding Annual Conference matters at this time but shared that next year's Conference will be held in June 2026 in Greenville, NC.

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS

Scott shared the following report:

1. Our new Minister of Music, Matt Estes, will begin participation in church service on Sunday, October 5, 2025. There will be a welcoming reception for Matt on October 5, after the 11:00 am service, in the Heritage Center. Our interim music director, Tim Baker, will stay on for a few weeks after Matt begins his employment to aid in transition.

2. The Staff Parish Relations Team has voted to direct Pastor Ray to make an offer of employment to Associate Pastor candidate, Daniel Polito.
3. There are 3 candidates for the position of Playschool Director. Two candidates have already been interviewed by representatives of the SPRT. The third candidate is scheduled to be interviewed on Tuesday of next week. Scott remarked that, hopefully, the Director's vacancy will be resolved soon.

TRUSTEES

Gary shared the following report:

1. Gary deferred to Chris regarding the status of the selling of a church van. Chris reported that he had communicated with a local vehicle dealership that our Church has a van to sell. Hopefully, there will be a positive response to report at the October meeting.
2. As to the ongoing efforts by the Trustees to resolve the property issues across the street, including the parking lot and the area behind the Ministry Center, the corporate legal documentation matters have been cleared up. The Trustees can now move forward with the parking lot agreement with Duncan Exxon and the execution of documentation between the Church and Jim Smith regarding a small piece of property adjacent to the Church's property.
3. The annual accessibility assessment, filled out upon request of the conference, has been completed. Gary offered thanks, for the record, to Gene Fonville and Hannah Reeves for their instrumental help with this assessment.
4. A "State of the Church" assessment has been filled out by the Trustees, which is designed for our use only.
5. The parsonage, currently empty due to Associate Pastor Stephan Margeson's assignment to a church in Knightdale, has now received a deep cleaning.

WORSHIP AND ARTS

Marianna reported as follows:

1. Marianna offered congratulations to Melissa Miller, Children and Family Minister, for the return of acolytes as a part of our church service. Several members made positive comments about efforts leading to the restarting of the program and the enjoyment of seeing young people being a part of the worship service.
2. The guidelines for funerals have been updated.
3. Silk flowers are going to be utilized at funerals.

GENEROSITY

There was no report from the Generosity Committee; however, Ray shared with the Visioning Team that the Committee's work continues and there will be an emphasis on generosity beginning the second week of October.

FINANCE

Curtis Price, chair of the Finance Team, was unable to attend. Likewise, William Inabnit, Church Treasurer, was unable to attend. Jim reported that Curtis had called him and requested that he inform the Visioning Team that the Finance Team has adopted a budget for 2026 and that there will be a report on this at the October meeting.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Melissa reported as follows:

1. The acolyte program is going great. It is nice to have them back. Participation as a acolyte has been opened to a wider group. Younger children are going to have the opportunity to train as acolytes and participate in church service.
2. Children Choir is going great. The parents like it. Practice is scheduled for Sunday in between the two church services.
3. Melissa met with staff at Eastlawn Elementary School, our Church's adopted school as a part of the Conferences' Congregations For Children program (C4). She obtained a list of needs from the staff and will speak with the United Women of Faith regarding those needs.
4. Playschool is up and running, and going great. She echoed that there are three good candidates for the Director's position. Scott commended Melissa for her hard work and effort as Interim Director in getting the program underway for fall 2025.
5. The Fresh Mobile Market is being led by lay persons, who are doing a great job. Betty shared that the Market recently served 125 families. Carol pointed out that the makeup of those being served has undergone some changes. There are more elderly people now coming for assistance.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Chris reported on the things happening with our youth:

1. Breakfast Club numbers are going up. There have been as many as 25 youth attending, currently all boys.
2. The Blessing Bags event is coming up shortly. The assembled bags are provided for church members, visitors, and friends to in turn give the bags to the needy. The

- contents include practical items that will help recipients meet some of their most basic needs.
3. On October 12, Youth will be helping Miss Melissa.
 4. Appalachia Service Project is scheduled for June 21 – 27, 2026. Chris reports that he is expecting 3 teams and is hoping for 4 teams.

SENIOR PASTOR

Pastor Ray reminded us of upcoming events, including Market for Missions and the CROP walk. He asked us to pick up a sign for M4M and asked us to pick up a Blessing Bag for sharing with others.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Betty lifted up the Merrill family. The husband has Lewy Body Disease and things are not good. The family could use the support of their church family to ease the struggles they are experiencing during these most overwhelming challenges in their lives.

Chris shared that he had communicated at some length with the Associate Pastor candidate. Chris was very complimentary of him.

The meeting was closed with a prayer offered by Pastor Ray.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Roberson
Chair and Temporary Recording Secretary