

**Minutes of the Visioning Committee
Front Street United Methodist Church
March 27, 2025**

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

Jim Roberson, Chair	Sean Hardy	Tim Bauguess
Pastor Ray Warren	Scott Self	Paula Reardon
Pastor Stephan Margeson	Marty Strickland	Lee Conner
William Inabnit	Julia Huneycutt	Betty Massey

OPENING

Jim opened the meeting with prayer. A moment of silence was observed in honor of Cynthia Powell who recently passed away.

FEBRUARY MINUTES CORRECTIONS

Jim requested to correct a couple of scrivener errors in the February 2025 minutes: to consistently spell “triathlon” throughout and to add an “h” at the end of Suzie Lambeth.

Scott also requested to correct the motion from SPRC to properly state as follows: “SPRC recommends that the After School and Summer Camp Programs be terminated at the end of this school year unless the Vision Committee decides to commit additional funding and resources to bring them up to historical standards.” A motion to accept the minutes as corrected was made by Paula, seconded by Lee and unanimously approved.

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS

Scott reported that SPRC met to discuss reducing personnel costs. As Dr. Matt Brittain has submitted his resignation as Organist/Director of Music effective at the end of May 2025, SPRC will be looking at redefining this position, as well as reviewing all other staff positions. Additional changes and cost cuts will be coming, as SPRC has been tasked with cutting \$300,000 from the current church budget over the next 18-24 months. Potentially, some staff positions may have a reduction in hours and we may look into some retirement dates; however, not all changes will occur at once. No one is trying to rush into decisions, but rather to formulate an overall strategy to maintain our quality of ministries and congregational care. A discussion was held, and members present previewed two letters/emails that have been drafted to advise the congregation of changes which will be coming.

General comments included the continuing need to share information with members of the congregation that the Church has several specific funds and endowments which have money designated for specific uses (outside of the general budget), which include the Heritage Center renovation (specific fund), relocation of the columbarium (fund and donations), and flat roof which now has to be replaced at a cost of \$30,000 will be covered by an endowment fund. It is critical that we explain to church members that these facility/maintenance issues are not general budget items. Our general budget is our Operating Fund to keep the lights on in the buildings, heated or cooled and open during the day and staff paid.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Julia shared on behalf of Melissa that the dates for Vacation Bible School have been changed to July 7-11th, so that all students through 5th grade will be able to attend. Hours are 9-noon. A request was made for more volunteers.

- Easter Sunday—need nursery volunteers for both Aldersgate and 11:00 services.
- Creation Day on May 10th at Dinner Bell Farm coming up.
- Camp Chestnut Ridge—Front Street week is July 14-18, church participants receive a \$50 discount, Pastor Stephan and Nurse Sierra will be present as well that week!
- Fresh Mobile Market, part of our C4C initiative (a conference-wide mission for schools.), is now lay leader run, which is great and how we envision ministry to happen!
- Eastlawn will have teacher snacks provided by United Women in Faith this month
- Food donations for our Backpack Ministry continue—needed items are listed in newsletter and bulletins
- April 7-11 is Playschool teacher appreciation!
- Playschool registration for the fall is open. Playschool will host 3 summer camps this summer.
- Ms. Melissa is working on Summer Sunday School with a Bluey theme!

Pastor Ray asked that we pray for Melissa as she is navigating through many close personal family matters, as well as handling her many responsibilities here at the church.

PASTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP

Pastor Stephan met with Joel of Horizons regarding the on-going Generosity Campaign and reminded everyone that this is an all-year campaign.

We are half-way through Lent and the sermon series focusing on Adam Hamilton's Words that Changed the World (the words of Jesus). Upcoming services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday! Please attend and bring a friend or family member!

Next sermon series to be Anything But Ordinary!

Stephan also shared several mini-reports for those not present:

- On behalf of Chris, our Junior High School youth doing well and Josh will be assisting with these students in ministry through the summer. 8 youth will be participating in ASP this year in 2 teams!
- Aldersgate attendance is going well, with 2 church members returning!
- Kudos to Caroline Connor—a man recently requested the use of one of the wheelchairs from the Community Medical Closet so that he could take his wife out to dinner!

SENIOR PASTOR

Pastor Ray thanked everyone for sharing in difficult discussions and asked that we keep SPRC in our prayers for the Holy Spirit's guidance and direction. Changes in staffing positions are difficult and affect all people, their families and our church community in real ways. Let's keep kindness and discretion always in the forefront.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Paula shared that David Hoxie fell Tuesday while going into handbell practice and is sore, but ok.

Leslie Peavy was not present, but her visitation ministry at Village of Brookwood is so special and important to those she serves that she was asked by the family of one of its residents who passed recently to actually preach her funeral. What an honor!

The Merrill Family will receive the proceeds from the Pancake Supper. Please share this information. Also, we need to ask Anna how the church/members can assist them and what is the best manner. Someone will reach out to her, as their family continues to manage his illness. More to be shared next month.

CLOSING

Pastor Ray closed the meeting in prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betty Massey
Recording Secretary