



October Meeting Minutes 2025
Prepared for: Hope Strategic Planning Council
Prepared by Tuesday Williams
Date of Meeting: October 21, 2025

Members Present

Krister Ulmanis, Interim Senior Pastor
Bob Benedict, President
Amy Poirier, Director of Leadership
Wally Bishop, Director of Facilities
Evan Finley, SPC Member at Large
John Davis, SPC Member at Large
Augusta Stephens, SPC Member at Large
Tuesday Williams, Recording Secretary

Members Absent

Amy Cooley Higgs, Associate Pastor
Michael King, Director of Finance

Other Members Present

Mita Bhavsar

Call to Order

The Strategic Planning Council meeting was called to order at 7:01pm

Opening Prayer

Pastor Krister - opening devotion along with prayer

Meeting Minutes Review

- **Approval of September Meeting Minutes - September 16th, 2025**
 - **John Davis moved to approve, Evan Finley seconded**
 - **All in favor, none opposed, motion passed unanimously**
- **Approval of September Meeting Minutes (Executive Session) - September 16th, 2025**
 - **John Davis moved to approve, Evan Finley seconded**
 - **All in favor, none opposed, motion passed unanimously**

President's Report - Bob Benedict

- **Call Committee Update**
 - 6 candidates received so far
 - 4 released after significant discussion and determination that they were not a good fit
 - 1 being held for consideration
 - 1 has gone through 2 interviews so far and decisions are currently being made on this candidate
- **Finance Update**
 - Mita will provide details
 - General Fund Giving down 14% from 2024 (\$51K)
 - Mitigation
 - 2026 Campaign
 - 2025 Giving plea (following 2026 Campaign completion)
 - 4th Quarter historical giving pattern
- **Attendance Update**
 - Overall attendance looks down about ~24 people from 2023 to 2025
 - Online attendance and Sunday School seem to be fairly consistent
 - Discussion on whether or not to share this at the Congregational Meeting

Senior Pastor Report - Pastor Krister Ulmanis

- **New Member Classes**
 - 3 families participated
 - Service of Reception during each service on Nov. 23rd.
- **Membership Changes**
 - Removed:
 - Steve & Kathy Lang - transfer to Holy Cross, Livonia
 - Added:
 - Jason, Christine, Eric Cherry - transfer from St. Andrew, Maryland
 - Robert, Karen, Megan Beahon - transfer from Holy Cross, Livonia
 - Paulina, Aaron, Sienna Brandt

- Daughter Chloe already a member through baptism
 - Sean, Christina, Noah, Isaac Pickard - transfer from Antioch
 - **Motion: Add the new families to our membership as listed in Pastor Krister's report.**
 - **John Davis moved to approve, Amy Poirier seconded**
 - **Discussion was held on the additions**
 - **All in favor, none opposed,**
- Pastoral Acts
 - Funeral:
 - Judith Kocsis - September 14, 2025
- Volunteer Issues
 - Need more volunteers in Children's Ministry
 - Child Care Coordinator shared that the student:teacher ratio is getting too large and they will have to start turning families away
 - Sunday School teachers are needed as well
 - Discussed possibly adding service hour component to Confirmation - have done this in the past
 - Discussed families that use the nursery service, being asked to serve one Sunday a month
 - Discussed an SPC member possibly running a task force for addressing the volunteer issues
 - Discussed possible use of "Time and Talent" sheets, buddy system for new members, etc.
 - Discussed different ways to sign up for volunteer activities and/or ministries
- Worship Attendance - September 2025
 - 7th: Traditional: 42 on-site, 36 on-line & Modern: 91 on-site, 40 on-line
 - 14th: Traditional: 43 on-site, 30 on-line & Modern: 81 on-site, 48 on-line
 - 21st: Traditional: 43 on-site, 36 on-line & Modern: 99 on-site, 62 on-line
 - 28th: Traditional: 41 on-site, 46 on-line & Modern: 85 on-site, 34 on-line
 - Avg: Traditional: 42 on-site, 37 on-line & Modern: 89 on-site, 46 on-line

Financial Report - Mita Bhavsar

- Question on lost givers addressed during President's Report
 - YTD - 59 lost giving units (~\$70,000) - through July 2025
 - YTD - 13 new giving units through July of 2025 (~\$3,000)
 - 44 lost giving units in 2024 (~\$52,000)
 - 26 new giving units in 2024 (~\$27,000)

- Financial Summary
 - Net Income Walk September
 - Overall we are at a red light vs. Budget
 - General giving lower by 3% - \$1,000
 - September giving was slightly better than expected
 - Net Income Walk YTD
 - General Fund giving down 14% (-\$50,000)
 - Small savings from Office Manager position, special musicians expenses, spacing out furnace repairs, etc.
 - Without Antioch gift we are ~\$68,000 lower in revenue than last year, and ~\$11,000 lower in salaries and wages
 - Overall ~\$85,000 loss over last year
 - **Motion: Move the Antioch gift from the Hope Fund to our General Fund.**
 - **John Davis moved to approve, Amy Poirier seconded**
 - **Discussion was held on the motion**
 - **Motion withdrawn by John Davis**
 - Budget Update for 2026
 - Still getting numbers to pull this information together
 - Discussion was had on our projections for next year's budget based on the current Stewardship campaign
 - Table the discussion on the 2026 budget. Discussed presenting the \$611,000 budget at the Congregational Meeting
 - Moved next SPC meeting before the Congregational Meeting to discuss budget

Stewardship Report - John Davis & Evan Finley

- Temple Talk this past Sunday - Generational Family perspective
- Temple Talk this coming Sunday - Youth focus past and present
- Will send out letter for review on Stewardship for All campaign
 - Letter will be adjusted based on current giving for 2025

Next Meeting

- Nov. 11, 2025 at 7:00pm

Closing

- Close out in Prayer
- Meeting adjourned at 9:52pm