



***August Meeting Minutes 2025***  
***Prepared for: Hope Strategic Planning Council***  
***Prepared by Tuesday Williams***  
***Date of Meeting: August 19, 2025***

**Members Present**

Krister Ulmanis, Interim Senior Pastor  
Amy Cooley Higgs, Associate Pastor  
Bob Benedict, President  
Michael King, Director of Finance  
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**

None

**Call to Order**

The Strategic Planning Council meeting was called to order at 7:00pm

**Opening Prayer**

Pastor Krister

**Meeting Minutes Review**

- **Approval of June Meeting Minutes - June 17, 2025**
  - **John Davis moved to approve, Evan Finley seconded**
  - **All in favor, none opposed, motion passed unanimously**
- **Approval of July Meeting Minutes - July 15, 2025**
  - **John Davis moved to approve, Evan Finley seconded**
  - **All in favor, none opposed, motion passed unanimously**

### **President's Report - Bob Benedict**

- Date for November Congregation Meeting - November 16, 2025
  - Will need someone to take notes as Tuesday is unavailable
- Call Committee Update
  - Things are going really well
  - Mock Interviews are wrapping up - these are interviews with ministers in the synod to help work out questions we'd like to ask
  - Good feedback from the ministers about the Behavioral Interview Process
    - Really helping to identify how a pastor will react in various situations
  - Hoping to start looking at candidates in early September
  - Interview 1 via Zoom, interview 2 via Zoom, interview 3 would be in-person

### **Senior Pastor Report - Pastor Krister Ulmanis**

- Personnel
  - Helen Blicharz began work as Church Business Administrator on July 28th
  - She is adjusting nicely and working out well so far
- HopeFest Update
  - Brittany Caron is organizing the event on Sept. 7th following Modern Worship
  - Cost analysis is within the budget
- Worship
  - Christmas Eve Worship Times
    - Modern Candle Light Family Worship - 3:00pm with band
    - Traditional Candle Light Worship - 8:00pm with organ and choir
  - Music - talk to Christian about expanding and opening up to congregation
    - Staff has discussed maybe incorporating the children
    - Alicia may work with Christian to start creating some new opportunities
- Worship Attendance - July 2025
  - 6th: Blended: 75 on-site, 56 on-line
  - 13th: Blended: 110 on-site, 72 on-line
  - 20th: Blended: 128 on-site, 80 on-line
  - 27th: Blended: 86 on-site, 48 on-line
  - Avg: Blended: 100 on-site, 64 on-line

### **Financial Report - Michael King**

- Review of July Actual vs. Budget
  - General Fund giving lower by 32%

- Income from facilities rentals but not enough to offset
- YTD
  - We are approximately \$40,000 off of our budgeted projections
- Balance Sheet
  - Cash on Hand is in a pretty decent position ~ about 4 months
- Request to move the Stewardship to its own category and out of the Faith Formation category

### **Matters Arising (New Business)**

- Look at updating the Constitution after national guidelines are released around November
- Appointment - Interim Director of Leadership - Amy Poirier
  - **Motion: To nominate Amy Poirier as the Interim Director of Leadership**
    - **John Davis moved to approve, Augusta Stephens seconded**
    - **Discussion was had regarding the nomination**
    - **Five in favor, one opposed, one abstained, motion passed**
- Blood Drive
  - Not as big as last time
  - Will look to set another date
  - Look at marketing more before the event
- Justice Summit - October 4th from 9:00am-4:00pm
  - Synod day of workshop
- Age-to-Age Initiative
  - Alicia went to the launch and will be forming a team soon
  - 12 churches from across the country are participating
  - Will include a site visit eventually
- Thrivent Grants

### **Facilities Report - Wally Bishop**

- No updates on improvements to building/landscaping
- Scouts completed the trails and they look great

### **Stewardship Report - John Davis & Evan Finley**

- Stewardship for All Seasons Campaign content discussion
  - Discussed timeline of marketing materials release
  - Reviewed vision, reason for ask, and goals for the campaign

### **Next Meeting**

- September 16th, 2025 7:00pm

**Closing**

- Close out in Prayer
- Meeting adjourned at 8:57