



Brevard First
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Board of Stewards Agenda

Tuesday, August 12, 2025 6:30PM

Start time : 6:35PM

Timekeeper - Jay

Opening Prayer - Mike

My Story / Testimonies: Peter / Anna (10 min total)

1. Approve June 2025 minutes

2. Ministries Updates (8 min total)

a. Serve - Jamie

- Mission Moments are GROWING! In May, Summer Literacy was around \$1000.00. Pastor's Discretionary comes in at \$631.00. Rise & Shine in July = \$1200.00. It's special to see that people are feeling compelled to give for such great causes.
- We've been working with Steve Pagano & the Trustees to build a "Blessing Box" in front of the Chapel. This should be up within a month. This is exciting!
- Jay is exploring the possibility of a Poverty Simulation. More details to come
- We've been communicating with Bread of Life about partnering with other churches to "adopt a Saturday".....
- More people - comment from Harold - bring in people who are passionate about representing the church & engaging church members. Small acts of service - sub committees - international trips ** more info from Jamie for announcements

b. Cultivate - Debra

- Please see attached notes from the Cultivate and Church Life Team

c. Grow - Katrina

- At the first 50+++ meeting, over 50 women attended. Our second meeting is on September 16th at 6PM.
- Children's Sunday Schools will be up & running starting on September 7th (after Labor Day). There will be 4 classes. We still need 2 more teachers for the K-1 class.
- Blessing of backpacks is on Sunday 8/17

d. Nurture - Jay

- Last meeting was on July 20th
- Choirs
 - Adult Choir starting its normal practice and worship schedule.
 - Christmas Choir (shorted time in practice and no implied long term commitment) starting in fall
 - Children's Choirs start on September 10. (Debra and Tim have a meeting on 8.13.
 - Bells are also starting up! Workshop on 8.21. Morning and evening bell practicing begins on 8.28.
- Prayer Groups
 - Brenda says they are strong though we need new people too
- Stephen Ministry



Brevard First **UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

- Meeting on 8.13 for continuing ed and peer discussions
- SM's ministering in many ways
- Initiative : expanded Contact Ministry (replaces Visitation Ministry)
 - The Nurture Team discussed the initiative on July 20th at the team meeting. Jay handed out a written description based on previous comments.
 - The team made many strong suggestions. Here are some :
 - "Rebirth" of a former group called the "Group of Eight" who organized contacts in the past.
Involve the Prayer Group
 - Emphasize keeping the pastor in the loop
 - The team also suggested some candidates for participation and leadership, based on previous work of this kind

3. Discussion and Next Steps: (30-40 min)

a. Facilities and recap of Hendersonville UMC field trip in July 2025

- Jay Farrell : Orientation towards doing something with the facility was the strongest point & set the tone.
- Peter Johnson : Hendersonville UMC surveyed the church & Percent voted to utilize the church building more. It was very impressive to see the various projects that were completed
- The church had partnered with non-profits to finish the tasks
- The young adult space transformation was inspiring
- Churches aren't the places in society where people feel comfortable just "stopping by". It's a neat future to think about & we look forward to exploring the idea more.
- Hendersonville UMC is quite formal and structured in how they bring outside groups in.
- In Transylvania County, meeting spaces are hard to find. This is one area where we can fill a need. Ensuring all key pieces of what groups would want are available
- Hendersonville UMC has a multi use Chapel (Sunday school classes, small concerts, yoga). They have a dream kitchen with a cafe serving line. This took quite a long time, energy & money.
- Our additions to our space don't have to be fancy -
- With our church alarm app, we can lock and unlock doors remotely. This gives us flexibility of when & where we can host events.
- There was a clear goal for using each space - it wasn't scattered. If we already know particular organizations that align with goals - this would be a smart place to start. Potentially putting out a community survey? Engagement with the congregation asking about organizations with space needs? This provides clarity and structure.
- It's important to know our parameters & boundaries that we'd like to set when offering this service.
- **Update a facility user agreement to get approved by board
- Whatever room is being used - has in depth information posted on how to use/leave it
- We have started this with the Sanctuary Counseling Group
- After the field trip, it is easy to
- Step one : community use inventory to see how many people are actually using this facility before moving forward



Brevard First **UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

- Taking care of our space & paying attention to how we are using them
- Being good stewards of what we have

All current events happening at the church are listed on the church calendar :

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0/r/month>

NEW utilization of Church Spaces linked below :

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Wy43jVw04cRBELMjyRlaixyjmW2biy0kWPiLOQZrsGQ/edit?usp=sharing>

b. Property - Caldwell Street (Southern Roots)

- If we were to consider doing something, it can't just be a pipe dream or "future use" conversation. This is something we'd have to sell to the congregation. It's A LOT of money.
- This feels like a large project to think about. We have many things going on and we may not be at a stable enough position to move forward. Other opportunities will come up.
- We don't have a clear picture of how used this facility is. We don't need to move forward with purchasing something so expensive when we aren't fully utilizing our CURRENT space.
- There is way more maximization to do here before we try to tackle a complete other building.
- However we move forward we need to make sure the decision is sustainable.
- Should the price come down - how far does the price have to come down for us to be interested?
- Housing doesn't really work... "If we are looking to support the community, yet end up having to tell someone to leave their home because they aren't able to pay..." That can become uncomfortable and an issue for the church
- This would be the gift that keeps on taking. Not a good idea. Period
- If we want to go towards an exploratory route - there are many factors to consider.
- What could this space be?
 - Walk-up coffee shop (Deep Time Coffee, In-Depth thinking about WHO could work there)
 - Indian Restaurant
 - Brainstorming should be around the ministry first & in the context of what this church seeks to create
 - Childcare (specifically infant care)
 - Have a conversation with a community leader to help keep us focused on if there's a hole that needs to be filled or not
 - Speaking to the congregation for more insight/intell

4. Personnel, Schedule for EOY Mike (5 min)

- The Board of Stewards is SPRC at times
- Evaluations are scheduled with the BFUMC staff in mid-November. The BOS will be involved with this.
- Julie Barnette & Steve S. will be looking at evaluations to help assist with the final evaluation. This is so we can gain a better understanding & more broad view of our staff.
- Jane Wheelless will assist as well to wrap up the Strengths Finders

5. Finance and Budget, Stewardship Peter (10 min)

a. Report re: ups & downs we've encountered



Brevard First **UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

b. May and June very strong

- i. Large gifts? Or a small gift? Mixture. QMDs & RMDs.
- ii. Some people met their pledges for 2025
- iii. Some people caught up w their pledges- mid-year
- iv. Some gifts are spread throughout the year
- v. Trending in better giving? Stabilizing some?

1. \$20 ahead of pledged giving

2. If August is like July, our trends are on target wrt budget

- c. July- total giving is \$10K AHEAD of BUDGET!
- d. Right where we should be at this point.
- e. Can't complain about where we are...
- f. Staff Parish (Staff) expenses are the largest expenses
- g. Kind of ok re: repairs
- h. Under budget re: utilities
- i. UMC initiatives are fixed
- j. Mission/Outreach is the same
- k. Better than last year's (2024's) giving at this point
- l. Small Group mtg on 8/17 re: Stewardship Pumpkin Sunday on 10/26/25 w guest preacher from WNC
UMC Foundation AJ Thomas, Consecration Sunday
- i. These teams will work out the details of Stewardship....
- m. Two big things left to be paid:
 - i. TCM- Sharing House
 - ii. WCP Staff

Longer Term re: options with Caldwell Street Parking Lot w UNC Pardee Health and Riddle Development?

- Longer term to 45 years?
- RE: interest rate? Perhaps his interest rate is his problem?
- Not a fixed rate
- Fair market value
- College Plaza makes us better off re: Sundays & evenings
- We want to be sure to maintain for our people- esp babies, toddlers, children & elderly
- Caldwell St tied up for 45 years...do we want that?
- Term of lease?
- UNC Pardee longevity?
- Guarantee Pardee & Andrew Riddle (Riddle Development) will make loads of money fr this
- We have a current 30-year note
- The change would give us the option of tying up the Caldwell St parking lot for 45 years?
- We may not want Caldwell St as much as we need College Plaza parking?
- What is the "out clause" the "exit clause?"



Brevard First **UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

- If we want the next 3 options if and only if both parties agree?
- Write 2-3 additional extensions 35-40-45 agreements that include all parties
- BFUMC advantage?
- Access to College Plaza parking lot

6. Facilities Update

Eli (5 min)

- Current DOT offer, short of \$100K
- Kitchen Roof Done! Yippee!
- Re-working our trash dumpster locating it with the UNC Pardee Health dumpster
 - Checking on the details about this
 - Makes the pick-up of the City Trash folks easier, they wouldn't have to come up into the lot closest to the church
- 9/22 Parking Lot re-surfacing begins!!
- BFUMC "beautification" of Caldwell St lot prior to 9/22- out of Caldwell restricted line item
 - Saturday 9/13 workday- 8am – crucial to get lots done that day!
 - Fencing
 - Pick-Up
 - Mulching
 - Weeding
 - Physical Sign-Up, clarity of tasks helpful for input & participation

SEPTEMBER 26 PUMPKINS DELIVERED BY SEMI-TRUCK- SAME WEEK OF PAVING!!!

7. Helene Worship Services at BMC - transportation

8. Lease options - Pardee Medical Complex

9. DOT Action

10. Fall Highlights and Planning (written update from Veranita)

- Facilities use inventories
- Staff Mtgs planned mixture between Group and One-on-One from August 2025-June 2026
- October Stewardship emphasis ad-hoc team meets 8/17/25 2-3:30
- Working on Advent/Christmas Cycle now rec'd feedback from parishioners already re: Xmas Eve
- In October, will gain input re: Lenten Theme and Schedule from all people

Closing Prayer - Veranita

End Time : 9:10PM

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 9, 2025, 6:30pm



Brevard First
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Time Keeper

Opening prayer

Devotion/My Story

Closing Prayer

Jamie

Harold

Mike, Carol and Veranita

Brittany W