

**UUMC Servant Leadership Board Minutes  
At Urbana UMC**

**3/31/2026**

**Attendees:**

Pastor Christopher Dinnell  
Tim Anderson  
Judy Tullis  
JT Rice  
Dave Case  
Amber Smith  
Steve Terry  
Andrew Johnson  
Shawn Wolfe  
Joyce McKeever  
Drew Sponheim  
Chris Jones  
Gary Schenkel

**Devotion:** Pastor Christopher Dinnell led devotions based on John 20: 19-22, when Jesus met the disciples after the resurrection saying to them, “Peace be with you,” and showing them the wounds in his hands and side. Pastor Christopher asked SLB members to share what is heavy on their hearts.

**Opening Prayer:** Tim Anderson

**Guiding Principles Update:** Gary Schenkel presented updates made to the UUMC Servant Leadership Board Guiding Principles. These included updating the mission and vision statements to the church’s current mission and vision statements and updating the Overall Ministry Strategy to Urbana UMC’s current Gather, Go, Grow strategy.

**Facilities Update:** Steve Terry reported that three of the church’s four boilers are now working.

A proposed church and parsonage landscaping and lawncare contract, from Brodie Rockenbaugh and discussed by SLB members via email before the meeting, was approved at the meeting.

Judy Tullis made the motion to approve the contract, Joyce McKeever seconded, and SLB members voted in favor. Shawn Wolfe recommended that the SLB obtain additional landscaping/lawncare bids in the fall prior to approving a contract for 2027.

**New Website:** The updated church website, developed by Chris Jones and reviewed by SLB members and church staff before the meeting, is now live.

**Security Plan Discussion:** SLB resumed discussion of information previously provided by Tim Anderson regarding a security plan for the church.

Tim mentioned that our church already has a Safe Sanctuary policy for our Sunday school program. He has spoken with other churches about their security plans, including his son-in-law, who is a pastor. He suggested developing a security plan step-by-step. For instance, this could start by positioning ushers at various locations in the church. SLB members shared their thoughts:

- Need plan and training for medical emergencies and use of the church's automated external defibrillator (AED)
- Identify church members who are qualified in first aid and emergency response
- Concern expressed about having members of security team carrying concealed weapons in the church. If this were to be done, would be limited to people properly trained and vetted.
- Training to recognize potential threats, red flags
- Monitoring cameras. Already have cameras in every day care room and hallways, one in lobby, one in each parking lot.

Tim said he will develop a plan for phase 1 of security plan, based on discussion.

**Finance Questions:** Prior to the meeting Shawn Wolfe emailed SLB members the February financial report to review. SLB members had no questions about the report for Shawn. The report overall indicated that the church is operating with a surplus – income exceeding expenses.

**Contractor Progress Updates:** Pastor Christopher reported that the parlor floor has been completed and baseboards are ready to install. An electrician will put lights in April 1. The drop ceiling is in, and tiles will soon be installed. Believe that work will be completed by third week of April.

**Human Resources:**

- Annual Pastor Review due June 1 – Dave Case reported that pastoral self-review underway, as well as SLB HR pastoral review and smart goals, which will be completed by June 1
- Advertising begun for church organist
- Working on mid-year staff review

**Church Conference Survey:** Decided against revising the Conference's online survey for our church members. However, Tim said it would be helpful to create a survey specifically for our congregation.

**Capital Campaign Updates:** Amber said that after Easter a relaunch of the capital campaign will be developed to provide new church members an opportunity to support the campaign and the ongoing capital improvement project. After improvements are completed on the church's main floor the next phases will be children's ministry, completing stained glass restoration, the fire alarm system, and, as a stretch goal, possibly carpeting the sanctuary.

**Summer Camp:** About 15 children are signed up to attend summer camp in June at Camp Wesley. Tim suggested adding a category on Push Pay to provide church members an opportunity to help children attend camp. This could be promoted through a Ministry Moment. The April women's fellowship meeting will spotlight summer camp.

**VBS Discussion:** On a rotating basis, SLB members will be at VBS to welcome and help out as needed. May have a tent on the green space behind the church to provide additional space for VBS. Will not have Food Truck Friday at the end of VBS this year. Instead, planning Sunday Fun Day.

**Volunteers for Coffee (Share Easter and VBS with Community):** The third and final free coffee will be at the Spotted Cow Coffeehouse April 1.

**Preschool Graduation May 14:** SLB members are needed to greet attendees. Volunteers needed outside and inside before doors open at 5:30 p.m. (earlier the better). Graduation begins at 6:30 p.m.

**Preschool Update/Kitchen:** 81 children now enrolled. Fully staffed. Health inspector reported to CCCC Director Kim Hartsell that poor condition of kitchen floor makes it difficult to see if the floor is clean. However, inspector did not order corrective action.

SLB discussed kitchen:

- Previous estimates to renovate the kitchen were cost prohibitive
- Need to determine church's future need for kitchen.
- CCCC no longer does scratch cooking, mostly heating meals, so less need for complete kitchen
- Discussed possibility of converting space on CCCC/Family Ministry level for preschool kitchen. Possibly develop plan for this and include it as a stretch goal for the Capital Campaign.

**Next SLB Meeting:** 7 p.m. April 28

**Annual Conference end of May:** Pastor Christopher and lay delegate Chris Jones to attend

**SLB Retreat Dates:** Tentatively end of summer or early fall. Possible dates will be sent out for input from SLB members

**Closing Prayer:** Pastor Christopher began prayer, inviting others to offer their prayers.