

UUMC Servant Leadership Board Minutes Zoom Meeting

2/24/2026

Attendees:

Pastor Christopher Dinnell
Becca Mengel
JT Rice
Dave Case
Amber Smith
Steve Terry
Andrew Johnson
Shawn Wolfe
Joyce McKeever
Drew Sponheim
Gary Schenkel

Devotion: Pastor Christopher led devotions based on Mark 10, beginning with verse 35. Jesus teaches about serving others. Discussed what it looks like for us to be servant leaders.

Opening Prayer: Becca Mengel

Security Plan Discussion: Prior to the meeting Tim Anderson provided SLB members a draft church safety and armed volunteer policy and a link to ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) training for churches and link to the ALICE website, <https://www.alicetraining.com/industries/alice-training-churches-houses-of-worship/>.

At the January SLB meeting, Tim said he would check with the Champaign County Sheriff's Office about security resources for churches. And Pastor Christopher said he would check with churches and the West Ohio Conference about resources and information about church security. Tim was absent due to illness. Pastor Christopher reported that he checked with Ginghamburg UMC in Tipp City and Mosaic UMC in Beavercreek. Neither church as yet has developed a security plan.

He does not have information from the Conference yet, but recommended expanding our hospitality team to provide a welcoming, helpful presence while also keeping an eye on security concerns.

SLB members discussed the draft policy that Tim provided including:

- The church security plan should be hospitality-driven. This could include a hospitality team that greets inside the church, as well as outside the church.
- Concerns expressed about having certain security team members carrying concealed weapons, though was mentioned that individuals in our congregation may be gifted and trained in providing security in this way
- Next step could be having someone from law enforcement assess our church for security issues and to recommend action steps
- Develop a plan for having exterior doors to the church locked at specific times, particularly once worship starts.

Finance: Shawn Wolfe sent SLB members the financial report before the meeting. She summed up the report, saying that higher giving than budgeted in January more than offset higher expenses than budgeted.

Contractor Progress Updates: Steve Terry reported that framing of the main floor hallways is nearly complete, most painting in rooms and offices is complete, flooring in Chad's office complete. Pastor Christopher received a \$4,400 quote for electrical work on the floor. Pastor Christopher said that the first invoice for the project was under budget.

Discussed temporary office space for church staff during renovations. Shawn said she would inquire about temporarily renting offices in the coworking space in the Willman Building across the street from the church. Steve said another alternative could be space on ground floor of the church, such as the crying room.

Upcoming Reports:

- **Annual Pastor Review is due June 1.** Dave Case has spoken with Pastor Christopher and Judy Tullis to start the process
- **Fund Balance Report / Audit is due June 1.** Cherie dela Rama will meet with Shawn Wolfe and JT Rice
- **Church History Report also due June 1.** Gary Schenkel will work on this.

DCOM – Discussion: Pastor Christopher reported that he received a positive report from his interview with the District Committee on Ordained Ministry, which renewed his local pastor's license through June 30, 2027. He added that he attended the District Day of Training at Shawnee United Methodist Church in Lima and that the district has sent our church a \$3,000 check to support the Table ministry.

Church Conference Survey: Chris Jones could not attend the meeting but emailed SLB members a draft of the survey for UUMC members to complete. Was recommended that the survey questions be revised, removing esoteric language so they could be better understood by church members.

Youth (At-Large) Board Member: Andrew Johnson suggested checking with Andrew Keasler, youth ministries director, to determine interest level among youth in serving on SLB. Steve Terry recommended having interested candidates fill out an application to be considered to serve on the board.

Guiding Principles Update: Pastor Christopher reported that Gary Schenkel has updated the mission and vision statements in the Guiding Principles and that additional updates are being made in the document.

Facilities: CCCC has been having issues with the church's commercial dishwasher breaking down. Steve Terry reported that the dishwasher recently leaked through to the next floor. The CCCC uses the dishwasher Monday through Friday, washing five to 20 loads a day. Steve said he can repair it, but not sure how long that will last. Prior to the meeting, Amber Smith emailed SLB members quotes for two commercial grade dishwashers to provide an idea of cost. This included a counter height model capable of 40 racks an hour for \$3,900, plus installation, and an under counter model capable of 22 racks an hour for \$2,750, plus installation. Steve said plumbing will need to be updated. Plumbing and installation of the dishwasher could cost about \$1,500.

Steve made the motion to buy and pay for installation of a new dishwasher for the church kitchen, with the CCCC paying \$2,000 of the cost, and the church paying the balance. Shawn Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

CCCC Discussion & Update: Current enrollment is 79, the highest it's been in a year, and financials are in good shape. The day care is considering raising summer rates for school age children as they require double the portions of food served to the younger day care children. Current rate is \$130 a week. Pastor Christopher will speak with Director Kim Hartsell to make sure the rate increase is communicated to parents through emails and flyers no later than the end of April to give parents adequate notice.

Upcoming Dates: Next Big Sunday will be Palm Sunday, March 29, at 10:30 a.m. with baptisms and new members. Easter, April 5, will include Sunrise Service at Freedom Grove, and 10:30 a.m. worship at the church.

Next Meeting: 7 p.m. March 31 at the church, with a time of prayer for the church and community

Closing Prayer: Joyce McKeever