

UUMC Servant Leadership Board Minutes
Zoom and In-person At Urbana UMC

1/27/2026

Attendees:

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

Devotion: Pastor Christopher led devotions based on Isaiah 28:16 (“I lay ... a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation”), Ephesians 2:20 (“Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone”) and Psalms 37: 23-24 (“The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him, though he may stumble, he will not fall.”)

Opening Prayer: Tim Anderson

UUMC Board Guiding Principles: Tim asked SLB members to review the UUMC SLB Guiding Principles, which he emailed to members before the meeting. Shawn Wolfe mentioned the need to update the Guiding Principles with the church’s current Mission and Vision Statements, which have changed since adoption of the Guiding Principles document. Gary Schenkel will make this update.

Finance Review: Shawn Wolfe reviewed UUMC’s financial report as of Dec. 31, 2025. She reported that investment accounts stayed steady over the past year. While total expenses for the year were above budget, giving also was over anticipated income. Giving was at 104% of pledges. This allowed UUMC to provide the Center for Creative Child Care \$15,000 to help stabilize its finances while an SLB task force helped the CCCC work toward sustainability.

HR Updates:

Dave Case recommended implementing mid-year reviews of church employees, in addition to the existing annual reviews.

Pastor Christopher reported that Joni Feltner, Children’s Ministry Director, had conveyed to him that she has been averaging 8 hours of work a week, while she is being compensated for 5 hours a week, as contracted.

Increasing her paid hours from 5 to 8 a week would increase her total annual compensation from \$3,900 to \$6,240. Following discussion Tim Anderson made the motion, seconded by Judy, to increase Joni Feltner’s contract as Children’s Ministry Director, from 5 to 8 hours a week and for Pastor Christopher to check in with Andrew Keasler, Director of Youth Ministry,

and Chad Mackert, Director of Family Ministry, about how many hours they are working and to see if adjustments are needed. Motion approved.

Pastor Christopher added that Joni will be providing intentional Sunday school lessons at the Center for Creative Child Care to further integrate the church and CCCC, helping the children learn that Jesus loves them.

Contractor for Next Phase of Capital Improvement Project: SLB voted by email before the meeting to accept Serenity Structures as the contractor for the next phase of the capital improvement project on the first floor, including the pastor's office, staff office, church office, kitchenette, parlor, curriculum room and hallways. Pastor Christopher invited SLB members to join him at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday to meet with the contractor at the church before they begin work.

Conference Report: Chris Jones, SLB Lay Delegate, reported that he will attend with Pastor Christopher the West Ohio Conference Annual Conference, May 27-30 at Capital University. The theme will be Abundant Grace.

Chris informed the board of a brief survey that all United Methodists are being encouraged to complete to help guide planning for the United Methodist Church's 2026 Leadership Gathering that will be held in October in Canada. Link to the survey:
<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/council-of-bishops-leadership-gathering/survey>

Youth At-Large Board Member: SLB discussed the possibility of adding a youth/young adult seat to the Servant Leadership Board. Suggestions for this position offered in discussion included 16-25 age range, a 14-month term, mentorship to prepare church leaders, candidates for the seat selected through the nomination committee, a three-year trial period. Tim asked SLB members to ponder and pray about this before the next SLB meeting.

Capital Campaign Relaunch: Amber Smith reported end-of-year total of \$352,882.74 raised, including seed money, leaving a balance of \$147,117.26 to reach the campaign goal of \$500,000. Will relaunch the campaign to provide people who joined the church since the original launch an opportunity to support the campaign. Chris Jones could edit the original campaign video to reflect work completed and next phases to be completed. Mentioned that start of work on the first floor would be a good time to relaunch.

CCCC Liaison on SLB: Discussed appointing an SLB member to serve as CCCC liaison to regularly check in with the CCCC, communicate back to the SLB and offer assistance as needed. SLB members interested in serving in this capacity should let Tim or Pastor Christopher know.

Security Plan: SLB members discussed the need for a security plan for the church. Pastor Christopher will check with other churches to see how they address security and emergency preparedness and to check with the West Ohio Conference for resources they may have to help churches develop security protocols. Tim Anderson will check with the Champaign County Sheriff's Office to see how they could help us address security needs.

Closing Prayer: Becca Mengel