
Meeting assets for All Hands Meeting - Committee of the Whole/Leadership Circle are ready!

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Meeting summary

Quick recap

The meeting focused on achieving quorum requirements and reviewing various financial reports, including year-end statements and trustee updates, which showed strong financial performance and stability. The group discussed and approved several organizational changes, including leadership structure modifications and contract extensions for key positions. The conversation ended with discussions about the church's dissolution process and the formation of a Legacy and Discernment Working Group to address the transition.

Next steps

- Wendy Miller Olapade - 617.592.5853: Check with individuals who volunteered for the Legacy and Discernment Working Group to confirm their commitment after reviewing the job description
- Wendy Miller Olapade - 617.592.5853: Recruit and organize the Legacy and Discernment Working Group and have them in place by the next gathering
- Wendy Miller Olapade - 617.592.5853: Schedule at least one Legacy Working Group meeting before the holiday
- Leadership Circle: Address officer elections at the first Leadership Circle meeting following nominations
- Wendy Miller Olapade - 617.592.5853: Consider presenting a more pared down budget at the next board meeting based on actual expected activities during the closure process

Summary

Quorum Requirements for Congregational Meeting

The meeting began with a discussion about the need for a quorum of 10 members for a congregational meeting. Wendy Miller Olapade confirmed that she counts towards the quorum. The group discussed the absence of several members, including Terry and Liz, who were unable to attend due to travel issues. They attempted to reach additional members via text message to achieve the required quorum. The conversation ended with a plan to pray for the attendance of one more participant to reach the necessary number for conducting business.

Congregational Financial Review Meeting

The meeting began with Wendy Miller Olapade - 617.592.5853 welcoming attendees and noting that Gini's presence helped achieve quorum. They listened to an inspirational song and prayer, after which Wendy Miller Olapade - 617.592.5853 confirmed the meeting would be recorded and shared the link to congregational documents, explaining that the financial reports covered the period from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025. The group agreed to review and accept minutes from previous congregational meetings, including discussions about the closure of the partnership with Hillside and decisions made in July and October.

2025 Financial Review Meeting

The meeting began with the acceptance of meeting minutes, which was proposed by Erin and seconded by Paul. Wendy Miller Olapade - 617.592.5853 then led a review of the 2025 year-end financial reports, highlighting that revenue was at 97% of the budget, with \$24,000 from the MOA kickball tournament. Paul presented the Trustees' Report, noting that as of November 17, the church had \$4 million in various accounts, with most being unrestricted. He also discussed the appreciation of the High Street proceeds fund over the past six years, emphasizing the church's financial stability.

Church Financial Growth and Planning

The meeting discussed the church's financial status, noting a significant increase in assets over the past 6 months, including a \$340,000 gift and approximately \$132,000 in growth. Paul M highlighted the current market's near-all-time high, expressing concern about a potential 10% correction in the next 6 to 18 months. Wendy Miller Olapade - 617.592.5853 presented a manually updated report detailing total assets, including restricted funds and savings, totaling approximately \$3.7 million as of June 30th. The group discussed the use of restricted funds, including \$2,400 allocated to support the AM to PAM program, and acknowledged challenges with accounting support due to a staff member's absence.

Financial and Leadership Structure Updates

The meeting focused on voting to accept four financial reports, which was approved unanimously. The group then discussed and approved motions to extend the operation of the leadership circle as a committee of the whole, suspending bylaw requirements for two standing committees. Finally, they addressed organizational structure changes, including electing the committee of the whole as the leadership circle and extending Aaron Olapade's term as a trustee to June 2028.

Trustee Roles and Budget Review

The meeting discussed the role of trustees, who manage investments and provide financial recommendations but do not have check-signing authority. Susan inquired about the interim moderator position, and Wendy Miller Olapade clarified that Liz serves as interim clerk but has not been officially voted as moderator. The group reviewed and approved nominations for various

positions. Wendy Miller Olapade presented the clerk's report, noting changes in membership numbers, and introduced a proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year, which includes a \$35,000 increase for legal fees related to the church's merger and dissolution considerations.

Budget Planning for Closing Organization

The group discussed the budget for an organization that is planning to shut down. Wendy Miller Olapade - 617.592.5853 explained that they have made a one-year commitment to use space at Shiloh, which will cost a maximum of \$2,000 per month. Paul raised concerns about approving a budget with estimated revenue of \$70,000, as many of the programs generating this revenue may not exist. The group agreed that they cannot make specific commitments for programs like AM to PM and NOWL at this time, as they have not yet determined the church's plan for the future.

Budget Approval Amid Church Closure

The board discussed the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, which includes funding for programs like AM to PM and OWL. There was concern about spending money on community programs when the church is planning to close, but the board ultimately approved the budget. Wendy Miller Olapade - 617.592.5853 emphasized that any significant changes to the budget would require board approval. The board also discussed the need for a more realistic budget that reflects the uncertainty of their situation.

Lead Pastor Contract Extension

The meeting focused on extending the lead pastor's contract and benefits to June 30, 2026, with an additional guarantee of a year's salary and benefits to June 30, 2027. Erin moved to support the extension, citing the need for stability during a potentially challenging period. Susan raised questions about the usual process for making these decisions and the roles and responsibilities of the lead pastor during the church closure. Wendy Miller Olapade - 617.592.5853 explained that this was a routine business decision needed to provide financial security and that further discussions on roles and responsibilities would follow. The motion was approved with a second from Ray.

Church Dissolution and Legacy Planning

The meeting focused on the dissolution of the church and the formation of a Legacy and Discernment Working Group. Wendy Miller Olapade - 617.592.5853 presented the group's purpose, which includes discerning the timeline for dissolution, recommending a legacy plan, and caring for community impact. Two volunteers were mentioned, but their names were not confirmed. The group aims to have 5-7 members with diverse skills and demographics. Wendy Miller Olapade - 617.592.5853 requested interested members to contact her, and Christy closed the meeting with a prayer by Oscar Romero.

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