Leadership Board Minutes for May 5, 2026

Parker United Methodist Church
11805 S. Pine Drive, Parker, CO 80134

Leadership Board Members:

Kelly Evans (Chair)
Dave Ambors
Jon Bray
Peter Farney
Geoff Haskell
Laura Easter Rainwater, Senior Pastor
Li Roberson
Eric Ross
Sue Saip
Emily Shaffer, Little Blessings Preschool Director
Kyle Snoich
Ron Suppes

Members not in Attendance:

Dave Ambors
Emily Shaffer

I. Call to order: Kelly called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

II. Devotion
   A. Eric presented a devotion about responding to evil with good, "The Way to Burn Your Enemies" based on Proverbs 25:21-22.

III. Review and approval of minutes of April 7, 2026
   A. Eric moved to approve; Li seconded
   B. Approved unanimously

IV. Senior Pastor's Report
   A. Updates for 2026

      1. New Member Class will be held soon with 5 interested in joining

      2. Worship – It is always a challenge estimating how many bulletins to make each Sunday. We MORE than ran out of bulletins on Confirmation Sunday. Our ushers do a great job of dealing with such unexpected situations. A good one to have!

      3. Lots of new visitors – Pastor Laura reminded us to look for new folks on Sunday mornings. She met one couple this past Sunday: she is retired UM clergy and he is a retired meteorologist. They are looking for a church home having moved here to be close to family. Pastor introduced them to Dan O'Neill who happened to walk by. This is something you can do as well. Dan or another person wanted to make sure they invited the visitor to the men's breakfast this coming Saturday.

      4. We are hearing from many visitors that they checked out worship online first. They also are looking for a more open-minded congregation. Some have said they want a church community where they can ask questions and not be TOLD how to believe.

They are also looking for churches with opportunities for children and youth. Even retirees want a church alive with ministries for all age groups.

B. This past Sunday was a gift to the pastors as the church celebrated women called into ministry. The official vote was May 4, 1956. Following is a link to a great article online that discusses this moment, as well as what happened prior to 1956 and some of the challenges since then.

1. "Why the 1956 women-clergy vote matters" https://www.umnews.org/en/news/why-the-1956-women-clergy-vote-matters

C. A new Christian Education Team has formed. Our retired clergy (and Jane Smith) decided to help out as they acknowledged how much is on the staff. We have three positions that are no longer full-time and only have three full-time positions (Pastor Cody, Noelle, and Pastor Laura)

1. The team is working on a holistic plan for small groups, especially addressing adult classes. The hope is also for intergenerational groups as well.

2. They are considering how to provide leadership and focus for the Adult Sunday School class.

3. The team is planning to have Fall Fair of classes and small groups on Sunday, September 13. This is also the date for the Endowment's Will Power Seminar. September 20 is the current date for Fall Fest Back to School event.

4. We are looking for leaders to help us with these classes. We will have 2 leaders per group that provides a team leadership model that might be helpful for those who aren't sure they want to be THE leader. **We need your help identifying teachers willing to be part of these teams**. They don't have to be educators or teachers. We will provide training because what is most important is listening, guiding conversation, and making sure everyone's voice is heard.

5. With this work, we now have a resource, Amplify Media, which is an online resource offering videos for small groups and studies.

6. If anyone is interested in learning more, please let Pastor Laura know. We will have a Team meeting this coming Monday, May 11, 5:30 pm – in person and via Zoom.

V. Business Items

A. Little Blessings Pre-School – Kelly presented for Emily
1. Enrollment is at 93% for the 2026-27 school year, which is amazing, and they continue to enroll new students.
2. The online auction and preschool prom were very successful. Close to $18,000 was raised between the auction and prom.
3. Security updates started with the installation of a new doorbell and intercom systems in the church and preschool office. Cameras were replaced, but not the doors.
4. The last day of the school year will be on Thursday May 21st
5. Summer Camp will start on Monday, June 1st and roughly 40 children will attend each day. The Summer Camp program is full.

B. Finance Update - Eric
1. Income is slowly leveling off. It is anticipated that summer income will drop off.
2. $700,000 was moved from the ERC (Employee Retention Tax Credit) fund managed by Schwab. The money was moved to a balanced fund with Methodists Helping

Methodists. The Schwab fund was earning about 3.5%, and the new fund is expected to earn about 7%. The balanced fund is part of Wespath (retirement/investment organization), so investments are socially responsible.

3. Money generated from the new Wespath investment will help with the monthly mortgage payment, as well as paying off the principle. $2.5 million is left on the mortgage and it will be paid off in 2047.
4. The Finance and Endowment teams are looking at ways to reduce the mortgage. They may suggest a capital campaign with 80% going to reducing the mortgage and 20% going to ministries.
5. People are needed to help with the 2025 audit. This is a good opportunity for others in the congregation to get involved. Eric and Jon are the contacts.

C. PUMC's Welcoming Statement
   1. Kelly expressed appreciation for changes being done quickly.
   2. Facebook was updated, the welcoming statement appears in the bulletin (top of back page), posted on social media, easier to find on the website.

D. Board Position Vacancy – Geoff and Kelly each have someone in mind to fill the opening on the Board. Potential members are welcome to attend a Board meeting to check it out.

E. First Quarter Reminder: Staff to Board Assignments
   1. Assigned staff are all good.

VI. New Business and any other items of importance and interest

A. Kyle reported that the Missions team is concerned about the large deficit that will result from the Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) MobilePack. Laura indicated that we have the money to cover FMSC, but it will use up all of the Mission Team's funds. It costs $50 per packer and the event costs $30,000 - $40,000. We should let more people know about these costs. Maybe have fund raisers, sponsor a packer, or get a corporate sponsor.

B. Ron mentioned that the Grounds Team appreciated the video shown in church this past Sunday. They still have spots open for the May 16th workday. The person who has done lawn mower maintenance is moving, so the team is looking for someone who has experience with small engines.

C. There are a few minor things left to be done on the parking lot repairs. The contractor will return on May 22nd or 25th to complete the remaining repairs for 2026.

VII. Next meeting

A. Tuesday, June 2, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.
   1. We will consider if we need to meet in July and/or August

B. Sue will provide the devotion

VIII. Closing prayer

A. Kelly closed us in prayer

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Review of Minutes: The meeting minutes of May 5, 2026 were submitted to Laura and Kelly for review on May 6, 2026.

Sue Saip, Leadership Board Member