Leadership Board Minutes for October 6, 2026

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

Leadership Board Members:
Kelly Evans (Chair)
Dave Ambors
Jon Bray
Adam Czaplinski
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:
Emily Shaffer
Kyle Snoich

Guests:
Amy Best
Leanne Cook

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

II. Introduction of guests Amy Best and Leanne Cook – our guests and the board introduced themselves to each other.

III. Devotion
- A. Peter presented a devotion based on 1 Samuel 16 and James 2 about how appearances affect our judgment.

IV. Review and approval of minutes of September 1, 2026
- A. Eric moved to approve the minutes; Geoff seconded
- B. Approved unanimously

V. Senior Pastor's Report
- A. Stats for 2026
  1. Membership and worship attendance will be reported next month.
     - a. Pastor Laura reported that we have visitors that attend worship every week.
     - b. There are at least 2 couples interested in joining the church. The new member class is October 18th, but an impromptu class will be held on October 11th, due to a conflict for these 2 couples.
- B. Stewardship is coming up
  1. Judy Snoich and Brenda Boren are on the Stewardship team
  2. The sermon series, Generous, starts Sunday October 11th and lasts through Celebration Sunday on November 1st.
  3. Board members are asked to make our commitments to the church early, by October 13th. It will be shared with the congregation our Generous commitments which may jump-start the congregation's prayerful consideration.

4. Pastor Laura will send commitment cards to board members next week.

C. Images on Website
   1. In the summer of 2024, a company contacted Little Blessings about a photo on the preschool website that was claiming it copyrighted
      a. We worked with the Conference's attorney
         1) Our attorney believed that there weren't a lot of damages, so we weren't at risk
         2) For the small amount, it would cost the company a lot for their attorney's fees
         3) Our attorney responded to a few emails on our behalf
      b. We never heard from the company again.
   2. In the summer of 2026, a different company based in Germany claimed a photo on the website was under copyright
      a. Pastor Laura first responded that we thought a license had been paid for and we were looking for it.
      b. Staff realized this was done at the height of COVID when staff was focusing on getting as much on the website as possible.
         1) This was for children's ministry, so likely not purchased, but copied from the internet.
      c. Jason has removed all photos from the website, including this one, that were not from the platform we currently use that provides for use of images.
      d. The German company continues to reach out to Pastor Laura, and she told them the photo had been removed from the website.
         1) They continue to contact Pastor Laura and indicated if we don't pay (there is a portal to make a payment in Euros), the owner may reach out to their attorney located in our area.
         2) Pastor Laura continues to not make a payment and now is not responding.
         3) A "final notice" was received from the company the morning of October 6th. It is believed there may be some risk, but probably not a lot.
         4) Some board members wondered if this may be a scam.

VI. Business Items

A. Little Blessings Pre-School
   1. No update was provided.

B. Finance Update - Eric
   1. August financials were reviewed and we are better than budgeted. This may be attributed to Funding Our Future.
      a. September offerings were not looking good.
   2. Reevaluate Mission Shares increasing from 10% to 10.5%-11%.
      a. Pastor Laura did rough estimates (estimates for 2027 budget purposes):
         1) Using August YTD figures:

a.	10% Mission Shares paid =	$55,715	
b.	If 10.5% =	$58,501	addl. $ 2,786
c.	If 11% =	$61,287	addl. $ 5,572
d.	If 12% =	$66,858	addl. $11,143
e.	If 13% =	$72,430	addl. $16,715

2) Using 12 Month Budget figure:

a.	10% =	$ 84,000	
b.	If 10.5% =	$ 88,200	addl. $ 4,200
c.	If 11% =	$ 92,400	addl. $ 8,400
d.	If 12% =	$100,800	addl. $16,800
e.	If 13% =	$109,200	addl. $25,200

b. Pastor Laura reported that she discussed this issue with the new District Superintendent, Andy Dunning.
c. There was considerable discussion by the board about how much we should increase the Mission Share.
    1) In our conference, the share is based on income, rather than an apportionment (a "bill").
    2) The average Mission Share paid in our conference is around 11%.
    3) The board agreed that we can probably do a little bit more.
    4) The level of the increase will be decided in our December meeting.

3. An internal review of financials was done by Judy and Brenda and Dave wrote a report about the results.

C. Safe Sanctuary Update - Laura
1. Pastor Cody updated the Church Safe Sanctuary Policy which was emailed to the Board by Pastor Laura
2. The policy should be reviewed and comments should be emailed to Pastor Laura.
    a. This does not need to be approved by the board; just reviewed.
    b. It was asked if the lockdown procedure needs to be included in this document. Just a reference to the procedure in this document is appropriate.

D. Special Event Support Needs – Peter/Laura
1. We have additional events held in the church to generate revenue, but we don't have someone from the church available to help the groups during the event, such as answering questions or handling emergencies, making sure bathroom paper products are restocked, etc.
2. Without a church "host", this has been on Kurt who usually provides the Tech Assistance; it is too much to ask him to provide both.
3. For the Carnation Theater production in August, the staff took turns volunteering to be available during their performances.
4. We need a more formal plan:
    a. Ask people to sign up to help
    b. We could include a small honorarium that would be paid by the groups ($25)
    c. Uncertain how many would actually sign up or volunteer
    d. Maybe Tokie could coordinate.
    e. Each team could ask their members to help host these events

E. Church/Staff Appreciation Month - Kelly
1. October is clergy appreciation month, but we would like to expand this to include the church staff, as well.
2. We will recognize Staff/Clergy during church services on October 25th; cake will be served between services
3. Peter and Amy Best will help Kelly

F. Church Conference – November 7th, 10:00 a.m.
    1. Needing votes:
        a. Salaries for both clergy
        b. Second year list of members we haven't been able to reach; this group would be removed from membership once voted; do not have a new first year list this year, but will have one next year
        c. Leadership Board members
            1) Present nominees for new 3-year term
            2) Perhaps vote on the nominees and this votes on the full slate of Board members
            3) Have applications for Brenda Boren (who will join the church before December 31 2026), Leanne Cook, and maybe one more (Amy Best).

G. Board Position Vacancy – Kelly
    1. Kelly has agreed to be Lay Leader
    2. Need a Lay Member to attend the Annual Conference
        a. Participates on the Board and goes to the Annual Conference

H. Fourth Quarter Reminder: Staff to Board Assignments
    1. Board was reminded to reach out to assigned staff
    2. New assignments will be needed when Eric and Li are no longer on the board.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION: SPRC Update – Salary Approval Per Recommendations – Kelly

VIII. New Business and any other items of importance and interest
A. Veterans Day recognition Sunday will be November 15th
B. Pete (church Treasurer) needs another person on the Schwab account
    1. Candi has full account access; Pete has partial access
    2. Li moved that Eric be the backup for Candi; Jon seconded; approved unanimously
C. Keep staff in your prayers as they are stretched thin.

IX. Next meeting will be Tuesday, November 3, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.
A. Kyle will provide the devotion
B. Closing prayer; Kelly closed us in prayer

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Review of Minutes: The meeting minutes of October 6, 2026 were submitted to Laura and Kelly for review on October 12, 2026.

Sue Saip, Leadership Board Member