

Stacy Grand Ave UMC Administrative Council Meeting

April 9, 2026 – 7:00 pm

Member	Present	Member	Present
Vince Pepin, Pastor		Jan Young, Treasurer	√
Mark Grams, Ad Council Chair	√	Sandy Grams, SPRC Chair	√
Stacy Peters, Ad Council Secretary	√	Bob Graff, Trustee Chair	
Dan Benning, Finance Chair & Lay Leader		Jeff Killey, Church & Society	√
Kay Hamann, Financial Recording Sec	√	Sue Merrill, Member at Large	√

Mark started the meeting at 7:01 pm.

Approval of the February Minutes – Kay motioned to approve, and Jan seconded; motion carried.

Monthly Finance Report - Jan:

- March income was significantly above budget (204.6%) because 2 people gave annual amount.
- March Expenses were slightly below budget (7.3%)
 - Snow removal costs were well above budget (173.5%)
 - Utility costs were essentially on budget
- Discussed money given for several different purposes that has not been used up – suicide series, Phil Bruno memorial, Church & Society t-shirts, suicide books – and moving to Church & Society fund to consolidate instead of maintaining these separate funds for past events that may not be done again. Jan can move funds at the direction of the person who donated them.
- Discussed proposals Jan sent ahead in email:
 - Investment of the church's current short-term assets – Jan would like to open a Money Market account at Charles Schwaub (US Treasury MM fund) where we can get around \$140 in interest per month we are not currently getting on this money.
 - Elimination of the study books as a separate fund and charging both income and expense to the Religious Literature budget line
 - Jan motioned to approve the proposals he suggested in his email letter and Jeff 2nd the motion; motion carried.
- Discussion took place regarding the parsonage rental. Dan emailed Jan about the poor payment record of the renters. Sandy & Mark asked we consider the UMC mission of helping others – the family is doing the best they can. We need to think about the balance between charity and stewardship and discuss further at a future meeting when Dan and the Pastor are present.
- ~~We need a Sexual Misconduct Insurance policy because we host the Lighthouse Youth at the FAC. Jan thinks Trustees has submitted this.~~ See clarification on this from Dan Benning at end of this document.

SPRC Report – Sandy

- Our new pastor Rev. Cho is starting July 11. Vince is done June 30, so we will need a replacement for worship 7/5).
- SPRC is meeting April 19 and will discuss a farewell for Vince and a welcome for Pastor Cho.
- Would like to use name tags or plastic lanyard the first month to help Pastor Cho learn who everyone is.
- Stacy let SPRC know she is adjusting her hours the week of 4/20 in order to take 4/22 off and will be on vacation in Ireland in June.

Trustees Report:

- Stacy contacted our lawn mower for an updated contract and sent to Bob to sign.
- The house behind the parsonage is for sale again and we learned their fence is actually on our parsonage property. Looking into how to handle.

Ministry Programs - Church and Society Committee – Jeff:

- Norma Duckworth is doing an Immigration Presentation at church on April 15th. We invited our neighboring congregations and shared on Facebook, Google Ads, and on the outdoor sign.
- Pastor Jerry plans to attend our next meeting next Tuesday 4/14.

Ministry Programs - Lighthouse Youth Ministry: No report

Pastor's Report – No report

Staff Report – Stacy

- Lent/Easter went well. Now that Lent & Easter are done, Stacy will start working on the 2nd letter we plan to send out to inactives.
- Will be setting up an obituary writing workshop in May for those interested. Tammy from Eernisse came last Fall to do this but didn't get to any actual writing and the group left disappointed and wants to do a deeper session on this.
- Stacy let SPRC know she will be on vacation in Ireland 6/20-6/28 so office will be closed 6/23-6/26 and she will work with Vince when it gets closer to get the 6/28 bulletin and slides done ahead of time.

Other Business:

- Kay asked who is paying for the new Lighthouse sign. Since Lighthouse (not the church office) got the quotes for the sign, Stacy gave the bill to Lighthouse when it came and has not gotten it back, so we assume Lighthouse is covering it.
- The estimate to re-seal the parking lot is \$9k and we have \$3k in our parking lot fund. We shared information in the newsletter that this maintenance will be done this summer and that people can donate to help fund it. We should continue to create awareness for this and put in the announcements.
- Kay shared that her Easter letter was late – She did not get it until Good Friday. Dan had shared with Stacy that he did not get his until Good Friday either. Stacy had asked Vince for the letter by 3/20 so it could be mailed on 3/20, but did not get it until 3/24. It was mailed on 3/24, so some of the delay was the post office, which is why we want to mail these at least 2 weeks before Easter.
- Sue shared that Mason does not think the keyboard/midi needs repairs, but that we should replace it. He thinks this would only cost around \$500 and we have 3 donors willing to donate to this. Mason is looking for something comparable so that we can get the special sounds we want to use.

Next Meeting is May 14th at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

Motion to adjourn made by Jan, seconded by Jeff; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Stacy Peters

Clarifications/Updates from Dan Benning 4/11/2026:

- 1) Lighthouse paid for the new sign panels
- 2) Per the UMC Discipline, we should have a Safe Sanctuary policy in place which includes background checks for staff and volunteers that work with children and youth. There are other areas covered in the Safe Sanctuary policy. I was not able to find if GAUMC has a Safe Sanctuary policy in place or on record. The new GAUMC insurance company has reached out asking us to fill out and return by 4/15 a Sexual Misconduct Questionnaire that questions if we have a Safe Sanctuary policy in place. Right now, most of our answers on the questionnaire are "No" instead of "YES". I have suggested that the Trustees review the Lighthouse Youth Protection Policy as a template for a GAUMC Youth Protection/Safe Sanctuary policy. This would fill a critical gap in our policies that we should have in place. GAUMC does not have to have any additional insurance due to Lighthouse using the FAC. Once Trustees have drafted and adopted the policy, the Ad Council will need to formally adopted the policy for implementation.