

Grand Ave UMC Administrative Council Meeting

September 10, 2026 – 7:00 pm

Member	Present	Member	Present
Jerry Cho, 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	✓
Vacant, Financial Recording Sec		Sue Merrill, Member at Large	✓

Pastor Jerry started the meeting at 7:02 pm with an opening prayer.

Approval of the August Minutes – Jan motioned to approve the minutes, and Jeff seconded; motion carried.

Monthly Finance Report - Jan:

- Income: August income was substantially below budget. Plate (general) income was less than a third of budget. The renters completed payment for July and paid \$1700 for August but still owe \$150 on August and all of September.
- Expenses were 14% below budget, which helped.
- The parking lot was paid for almost entirely from funds given for that purpose.
- We received a \$5k gift to the endowment last month and our endowment is now at \$103k+.
- Our apportionment for 2027 is going up 6%. Jan expressed concern that many items may be going up given the current economy.

Update on Preparation of 2027 Annual Budget - Dan

- Dan is still working on the draft budget, but expects there will be some increases in utilities and other items besides the apportionment mentioned by Jan.
- We are planning to have Pledge Sunday on Sunday, October 18.
- Dan set up the church and FAC for water use alerts on the new city Aquahawk system. This will help us identify and hopefully remedy any future water leak issues.

Confirmation of Charge Conference, November 8th (2026 Church Conference Forms)

- Our Charge Conference has been confirmed for November 8.
- Those responsible for completing forms should have received an email reminder about the forms with a link to the People Portal. Stacy will resend the link for anyone that did not get it – let her know if you need any help accessing.

SPRC Report – Sandy

- Met on August 30th.
- They discussed Pastor Appreciation plans for Oct 4th and setting up Pastor Meetings, which is currently being communicated and worked on.
- Also discussed wage changes, performance reviews, and recruiting new members to SPRC.

Trustees Report - Bob:

- Next meeting is scheduled for October.
- Back power door replacement frame is expected in a couple of weeks.
- The parking lot reseal & restripe has been done and paid for.

Ministry Programs - Church and Society Committee – Jeff:

- Met on September 8th.
- Looking for co-chair for the committee.
- They reviewed the items they did last year and started discussing what they want to do this year.

Ministry Programs - Lighthouse Youth Ministry – Dan

- Christin led the ecumenical service at GAUMC on August 23rd.
- LH programs kickoff this Sunday, September 13th with a cookout/bonfire at GAUMC.
- Sept. 27th they are going to the last Brewer game via free tickets they obtained.
- Many nice events coming in October and November (details will be in newsletters)
- Giving Tuesday Fundraiser will be December 1st with a spaghetti dinner and silent auction as usual.
- Christin is looking to share info again at one of our services in December or January after Giving Tuesday is completed.
- Sue shared that she talked with Christin about the idea for a mural on the FAC and followed up with a written proposal (see email shared with the Admin Council).

Pastor's Report – Pastor Jerry

- Pastor Jerry shared a detailed monthly report via email (see email shared with Admin Council).
- He shared the idea of inviting 3 interfaith leaders to our church as guest speakers in spring on 3 different Sundays to speak in place of his sermon, to promote inter religious conversation and learning. The Council like the idea and Jerry will contact them about availability.
- He also shared the idea of starting a men's breakfast and possibly a separate women's breakfast once a month. Mark suggested he put this out there to gauge the interest.

Staff Report – Stacy

- Has been asking for snow plowing and shoveling quotes from current contractors and have not gotten a response from Caleb at all for shoveling. Erich Schnappup (snowplowing) said he would send quote and Stacy asked for both plowing and shoveling if he was interested – still waiting for quote. Also sent requests to a few others who did it in past or expressed interest last year but were full after feeling concerned with the slow or no response. Bob asked for a list of who she contacted and Stacy will send.
- Stacy started gathering Charge Conference resources – agenda, Bishop's video, membership audit report, etc.
- Rest in the office has been business as usual – bulletins, newsletter, outdoor sign, etc.

Other Business:

- Dan shared there are lots of holes to fill Kay's passing as she did a lot of things to help the church function well. He is working with her daughters to get any church documents, etc. We will need a new financial secretary, but also a new script (RaiseRight) coordinator. Let Dan know if there is anything else we need to cover.
 - Sandy reserved the restaurant and entertainment for the Awesome Women's dinner. There are gaps there for running the dinner that Kay did.
 - Another gap: Kay sent out all the thank you notes for memorials given to the church.
 - She coordinated the decorating for the change of seasons. John & Cheryl have taken the lead for the Christmas tree and Larry Machtle & Mary Downing are handling some other things.
 - There are likely more gaps we have not thought of, please let Dan know.
- Sue asked about the Worship Committee we have had in the past for Advent and Lent and if we will be doing that again. Stacy shared who had participated last year and who needs to be brought in for any special services (Mason for music and AV if slides or streaming are desired). This committee would need someone to lead it to start it up again.

Next meeting is October 8th at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

Pastor Jerry led the closing prayer.

Motion to adjourn made by Jan, seconded by Sandy; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Stacy Peters