



CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Piscataway

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting: Leadership Council
Date: February 22, 2026
Location: Church (In Person) — Conference Room
Purpose: Regular General Leadership Meeting

ATTENDEES

Voting Members 9 (half needed for quorum): Antoinette Christmas, Artie Pinori, Elsa Mortensen, Jerry Phillips, Jill Morrow, Merline Mayers, Nick Offei, Rael Fuertes, Sophia Joseph

Lay Leader Khalil Farid, Treasurer Bruce Kuziola, Missions/Fellowship/Fundraising - Laurene Cholish, Joy LaBelle

MINISTRY AND MISSIONS

Missions Report

- Laurene provided an update on the Fashion Show and how well it went, including the amount raised.

FINANCES

Budget Review

The board reviewed the 2026 budget, which was adjusted by the Finance Team to achieve a break-even projection — noted as the organization's first balanced budget.

Key changes from the first draft included:

- Gift card income removed (\$2,750 budgeted previously) due to recent reconciliation difficulties and the program was discontinued.
- Special collections added as a replacement income source, particularly around holidays (e.g., envelopes in Sunday programs).
- Director of Program & Family position budgeted at half (\$7,500 instead of \$15,000) since the role wasn't filled in 2025 and hiring mid-year is uncertain.
- Building use income increased after a construction company agreed to rent the parking lot again — income not seen in several years.
- Landscaping line removed from expenses.

The group acknowledged some line items (utilities, snowplowing) remain uncertain and may cause minor variance.

TRUSTEES

a. Building Use

- A note was made that AL-ANON meetings had found another venue.
- The board discussed communication protocols — specifically that when incidents occur or concerns are raised, or incidents occur, reports must be submitted in writing, and names should be shared (not anonymous) so leadership can follow up properly.
- Artie provided an update on the electronic sign — contact has been made with the vendor and all relevant information has been gathered. The next step is to visit a site where the sign is in use.
- Wedding Coordinator position is open and new process needed. Pastor will work with Laurene and Merline.
- Parking request- request for 6 mos use of parking space, approved with \$1/day - CF
- Landscaping update – Elsa and Wilson to retire after this year, else to work on a few quotes so we can budget correctly.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting concluded with an Executive Session.

Minutes prepared by Artie Pinori