GENERAL LEADERSHIP MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting:	General Leadership
Date:	March 26, 2026
Location:	Church (In Person) — Fellowship Hall
Purpose:	Regular General Leadership Meeting

ATTENDEES

Antoinette Christmas, Artie Pinori, Bruce Kuziola, Elsa Mortensen, Holly Ehrnman, Jean Hansen, Jerry Phillips, Jill Morrow, Khalil Farid, Laurene Cholish, Merline Mayers, Nick Offei, Pastor Janice, Rael Fuertes, Sandra Ruoff, Sophia Joseph

1. MINISTRY AND MISSIONS

Vision & Mission Discussion

Mission Statement

Pastor explained that the current mission is adopted from the denomination but noted ambiguity around whether a formal vision statement exists for our church. Pastor proposed potentially gathering on a Saturday morning in the fall to discuss the church's vision, mission, emphasizing the importance of aligning projects and activities with these statements. Millie and others recalled previous attempts to address vision and mission, including meetings with prior pastors, but noted that these efforts often lacked follow-through and continuity.

Discipleship Process

Pastor suggested clarifying and formalizing the process for new member integration and discipleship — such as defining steps from new member classes to involvement in committees or small groups — and questioned whether such processes are currently documented.

Annual Goal Reporting

- The group discussed the practice of reporting on church goals at annual conferences. Millie noted this was done under previous pastors, and Pastor suggested that existing templates or past goals could be refreshed and revisited.

2. FINANCES

NONE

3. TRUSTEES

Building Use

Zion April 2027 Rental

- Discussed a proposed $500 fee for Zion rental in their April 2027 use of the hall, chapel and sanctuary for a 3 day event. The group agreed Zion should not be charged excessively due to their ongoing involvement/partnership and financial contributions to the church.

Building Use Agreement Review

The contract with Zion has not been updated for the current year. It was noted that their rates have not been raised since the original agreement while the church is experiencing rising costs. The importance of a spirit of partnership was discussed.

Methodist Girls School

- A request to use our building was made, we reviewed the areas and equipment of use and came up with a $900 fee. We discussed the importance of being equitable in offering discounts for mission-related events, considering both the church's support for ministry and the need to cover costs. We agreed to a default rate of $500 as an introductory offer for the Methodist Girls School, with future rates to be reviewed based on experience.

Piano Humidifier

- After discussion, the board agreed that Zion should be half of the quoted amount, and CUMC to pay the other half which includes an upgrade to the device. The total cost was quoted at $1k.

Building/Attic Cleanup

Laurene outlined a plan for cleaning and organizing the church rooms and attic, involving a few groups and key leaders. The process will involve communication and proper handling of items for disposal, archive, and donation in a timely manner.

Fishes and Loaves Storage

- The group discussed the need for some storage and the staff kitchen was proposed. A conversation about the oven and closing the gas line ensued.

Attic water leak from roof

- Jill to work with CJ Scotti on quote to repair water damage on roof.

Electronic Sign

- Artie had been in contact with a church in Newark who was happy with the process of Mega Signs. Next steps are to be discussed further with the board.

Sunday School Staffing

- Nicholas and others discussed the need for additional Sunday school teachers, the current rotation system, and ongoing efforts to expand small group participation as part of the church's discipleship strategy.

Wedding coordinators

- Pastor recognized Laurene and Merline will share the role of wedding coordinator.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting concluded with an Executive Session.

Minutes prepared by Artie Pinori