

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Leadership Council, September 16, 2025
Wesley House

Present: Jessica Schneck, Don Reasoner, Rick Albright, Steve Drachler, Amy Hall, Brookye Keeney, Anna Layman Knox

Excused: Lisa Bender, Wayne Bender, Christie House

OPENING PRAYER & DEVOTION TIME

Jess opened the meeting with the daily devotional from Upper Room. Today's reading was Psalm 23, and reminded us that God will never abandon us!

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Don began the devotion time with a reading that Christie prepared from SPSA Reflections by Karen Collins, wife of David Wildman. The passage reminded us of our deep connections with Jesus and the benefits of working with inspirational individuals. Also reminding us that we are all children of God, that it is important to build strong alliances and relationships, and that it is key to follow Jesus in *practice*!

PA RELIGIOUS COALITION FOR REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

A motion was made Steve Drachler to support Grace hosting a lobby day on November 18th for the Pennsylvania Religious Coalition for Reproductive Justice. Don seconded the motion. Anna added that the UMC's statement on abortion is nuanced. The council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

REFLECTION ON PROPERTY MISSION STATEMENT EVENT

The council reflected on the time spent on Saturday, September 13th at the Property Mission Statement event led by Partners for Sacred Places. Don shared that he was impressed by the respect of everyone's time on a Saturday. Rick shared gratitude for the food thoughtfully prepared by Jess and Lori. Jess relayed that every voice was heard. Anna observed that half of the people in attendance were new members since COVID. Amy and Brookye were happy to recognize that a new visitor from Grace, Rachel, attended and participated in the day's event. Anna reminded the group that we need to spend more time on where we are with Saving Grace, and more research (St. Stephen's Episcopal Church) co-living space needs in our community. Would we struggle to find young people who could afford such housing. Is special permitting required? What next steps such as best partner possible being Global Ministries.

Discussion about the potential partnership with a local community theatre and the need for Black Box Theatre space to accommodate 200-300 people. Upcoming site visit with their planning/building committee team is in the works. There was much discussion about the arts. Historically, Grace UMC has been actively involved with the arts and culture community. Steve will create and distribute an updated Saving Grace Report.

A Property Mission Statement Team will be established to continue the work of finalizing the statement for Grace. Team will consist of: Amy Hall, Brookye Keeney, Sue Kompare, Lisa Bender, Steve Drachler, and Pastor Anna Layman Knox.

FINANCIAL PLAN TO PAY SHARES OF MINISTRY IN FULL

A motion was made by Don Reasoner to approve the Strategy for Submitting 100 Percent of Shares of Ministry shared in the Leadership Council packet for the meeting. Motion was seconded by Steve Drachler. The council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS USING WHAT'S APP

Rick began a discussion around the use of the What's App for the leadership council group to streamline communication regarding council topics. This would eliminate the numerous emails that can tend to be lost amongst the many emails that each of us receive in a week.

OCTOBER CHURCH CONFERENCE

The October Church Conference will take place on Sunday, October 19 at 6:30PM . One person will be sent as secretary. Jess will present Form 6 on behalf of the council.

RENTAL AGREEMENTS

Erin is working with the three current rental groups (Garden Collective, Haitian Church, and Overnight Shelter) to secure updated, signed rental agreements. Council is advised to vote their agreement via email once received.

NOMINATIONS FOR LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Proposed nominations were discussed:

Class of 2026: Steve Drachler, Lisa Bender, Rick Albright

Class of 2027: Amy Hall, Jess Schneck, Bonnie Rhoads

Class of 2028: Brookye Keeney, Christie House, {Mel Eyer/Wendy Minnix/Jady Conroy}

WRITTEN ATTACHEMENTS TO COUNCIL PACKET

Leadership Council Meeting Minutes - August 2025

Financial Reports - August 2025

3-Year Financial Plan to Pay Shares of Ministry

2025 Pastoral Compensation Package

Leadership Council Retreat Write-Up

Respectfully submitted,

Amy C. Hall - Substitute