Final 7/21/26 board mtg minutes
Clay Andrew present
Board all present: Peter Brown (chair), Beverly Cramer, Ken Kramer, Kay Lutze, Wende Milner, Jake Petrjanos, Joan Sakaguchi, Marty Stiven, Connelly Woody

Interim Items:
Connelly completed edits on Gift Acceptance Policy. Still need to approve
Choir Director hired: Melissa Albert
Approval granted for landscaping work per KK request 7/7

Actions to be taken:

1. All Board members to go into their Realm profile and update notifications for participants to ensure that everyone is getting automatic email notifications of Realm /board activity.
2. Ken will send out a “test vote” to see if our Realm communications are any clearer.
3. JS will ask Quick Books about a smaller program to meet our needs.
4. CW will propose a plan for the Endowment money that the board will vote on.
5. Figure out a way to make policies available to church at large.
6. Policies to be part of the next ministry meeting
7. The Church Universal will convey Sainthood on JS and SB for financial work

Approvals made:

1. Gift Acceptance Policy with one edit (see below)
2. Expense Escalation Policy with one edit (see below)
3. Expanding Children’s Ministries/Intergenerational Ministries Hours 10 hours up to 20
4. Landscaping Request per Ken 7/7/26
5. Move ahead with an updated bid for elevator modernization/repair
6. No staff cuts will be made to mitigate budget shortfall

(FYI from the Reconciling Committee. No Board action is needed:

This is the foundational statement from Reconciling Ministries Network that we will be voting on:

"We celebrate God's gift of diversity and value the wholeness made possible in community equally shared and shepherded by all. We welcome and affirm people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, who are also of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, and family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status, and so much more. We acknowledge that we live in a world of profound social, economic, and political inequities. As followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to the pursuit of justice and pledge to journey in solidarity with all who are marginalized and oppressed."

This is the welcoming statement LOUMC adopted in 2012:

“Lake Oswego United Methodist Church affirms that all individuals are of sacred worth, without exception. All means all. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, faith, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic condition, marital status, or abilities. We welcome all persons who seek God’s love through Jesus Christ and who desire to journey together toward greater understanding and mutual respect.”

We can keep our welcoming statement as is. But to be a part of The Reconciling Ministries Network we must vote and approve the foundational statement listed above by at least 75% approval.)

MINUTES:

I. Clay summarized current state of LOUMC: Liz Whitson’s summer camps are in full swing. There is an amicable relationship with South Shore Preschool re playground sharing. Worship and attendance are steady. A number of parishioners are sick and nearing end of life.

Tension continues re conference decision not to return to Idaho in 2027 due to anti trans legislation in Idaho.
Clay received a text from the conference treasurer re church insurance and there may be a possibility of reducing the cost of our insurance. In Jon Gice’s hands.

II. Board policy edits,votes and updates:

A. Connelly prepared the requested edits on the Gift Acceptance Policy. This was approved with one minor edit in the fifth paragraph where “No committee member shall make any representation to the donor…..” to now read “No one shall make any representation….”

B. Expense Escalation Policy was approved with one edit, “finance board” to now read “ treasurer and finance chair”

(We would like both of the policies listed above highlighted in The Spotlight and made available on the church website for parishioners to access)

C, Clay described Lucy Kusler’s gift and the idea of increasing Liz Whitson’s Children’s Ministries hours to encompass Intergenerational Ministries as well; (See Clay’s document for expanded vision of ministry ideas.) Board approved this increase in hours and ministry for a two year trial period. Lucy Kusler is not expecting to have any approval involvement. Liz’s expanded hours and salary will begin Sept 1, 2026.

D. Discussed approved landscaping work and best way to communicate approval requests via Realm. Please use Communications<Inbox<compose to communicate with Board members,

being sure to toggle to the bottom of the document and choose “replies to entire group”. Please reply approval or questions on this thread. Ken will send out a “test vote” to see if it’s working.

E. KK presented elevator repair issues and timeline for modernization requirements per The State of Oregon. Board approved to move ahead and get a bid for modernization.

F. CW presented the current status of WLCP rental agreement with LOUMC and the fact that this agreement has expired. Board agreed to negotiate with WLCP board starting at $1000/mo and clarifying use of “yellow” room as apparent overflow storage not currently in compensation agreement.

III. Board discussion on LOUMC budget shortfall and use of endowment and bequest to mitigate this shortfall. Board agreed that no staff positions would be cut to address the shortfall. Board agreed that Stacey and Joan should receive sainthood for the work they are putting in to sorting out our financials vis a vis Realm and Quick Books. JS will ask QB about their “smaller program” that might suit our needs more appropriately.