Lone Oak United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting

Date: 08 August 2026, 11:00 am

Members: P-Present, A-Absent

P	Allen Burnett	P	Ranee Gough	P	Don Taylor
P	David Cunningham- Lay Leader	P	Ginny Mann	P	Connor Williams
P	Diane Dodson	P	Lou Ann Newman		
P	Jack Feiler	P	David Pope- Chair		

Guests: Jennie Beth Moorehead, Caryn Watkins, and Laura Hodge

Agenda Items:

I. Prayer – Rev. Dr. Connor Williams began the meeting asking for prayer requests, followed by an opening prayer.

II. Intro- Road Map to meeting. Rev. Dr. Connor Williams explained the planned agenda for the Council meeting.

III. Spiritual Formation- Ranee Gough led us in a devotion entitled, “Wisdom For Life”.

IV. Business

1. Approval of June Minutes - A motion was made by Diane Dodson to approve the June 2026 Council meeting minutes. A second to the motion was made by Ranee Gough. Approved by the Council.

2. Budget - David Pope stated that we are lacking a church budget guideline in our Guiding Principles. He then presented a proposed budget guideline that was originally provided by Timm Fair, last year. David offered that the document would work well for our official budget guideline. Motion to approve: Allen Burnett. Second: Jack Feiler. Approved by the Council.
   - A working team to develop a church budget for next year was formulated. The budget must be ready to present to the LOUMC Church Council before the Charge Conference is held in October 2026. Working team members include Connor, David Pope, David Cunningham, and the church accountant.
   - David Pope presented that he has taken the correct documents from the Council minutes, to Paducah Bank in order to remove Ty Miller and Timm Fair from the financial documents there.

3. Spanish Speaking Church Update - David Pope emailed our insurance agent, Lesley McGregor, concerning liability insurance by the Spanish speaking congregation. Leslie stated that we have to have a copy of that congregation's liability insurance. Once reviewed, there would be an add-on rider to our policy to cover that congregation, as well. A discussion was held on providing their congregation with master keys to our church. Jennie Beth Moorehead mentioned that Concord UMC has another congregation using their facility and that they went though the same questions. She suggested that we contact Chris Spaeth at Concord UMC, to learn how they handled these issues. Allen Burnett volunteered to contact Chris Spaeth.

V. Year in Review – Connor Williams

A. Statistics - In the past year our average attendance is about 85 people per Sunday service. We have received two new members and there have been three baptisms this calendar year.

B. Missions and Ministries - We are doing well in our missions and ministries. Every year our Halloween Bash draws hundreds of people. We are accepting school supplies now and our congregation donates regularly to Mountain Mission. We actively participate in supporting Paducah Cooperative Ministry and Family Kitchen, and involved with the warming center. The bazaar is this year, and last time we raised about $13,000. Attendance at our after-church meals are well attended and are trending upwards.

C. Lifecycle and what is driving the church. Connor discussed the lifecycle of the church using a "Vision", "Relationship", "Program", and "Structure" diagram, relating it to phases of childhood, adolescent, adulthood, empty nester, and retirement. He commented that our church was on the empty nester/retirement side of this diagram, but we are definitely moving into the childhood, adolescent and adulthood side of the diagram. We spent a lot of time reorganizing our structure and are seeing a lot of increase in our relationships with the community. There are new people joining and attending our church.

VI. Mission Field

A. Reports -

1. Report from the Children's Program Director - Jennie Beth Moorehead provided that she is running four separate ministries: Sunday School class for the children, "Small Talk", Children's Church, and the nursery. Three of those require separate preparations, in order to keep the children engaged. She has children from age two, to seventh grade in a one-room Sunday School class. She mentioned that LOUMC needs a Sunday School class for the

parents of these young children. If we don't have a class for the parents, we will lose the children. Jennie Beth proposes splitting the children up from first through third grade, and fourth grade through sixth grade, due to the maturity levels of the students. She needs an adult to help with the older group, while she teaches the younger children. Jennie Beth shared that in some cases she is writing lessons for each individual child, due to their needs and maturity level. The children want to be there, and are causing their parents to attend. She also offered that she needs adult help consistently in the nursery. The teenage volunteers care for the infants, but because of safe sanctuary requirements, an adult must be present in the nursery. If no adult assists with the nursery, the teenager must bring the infants to Jennie Beth's classroom. She stated that this is her biggest need. David Pope said that in the circle of the life of the church, a few short years ago we were on the down-slope of the circle, but are now on the up-slope, as we continue to grow in our children's ministry.

2. Report from the Youth Director - The Youth Group is entering their "retirement" phase of the church lifecycle, because they are all graduating and entering their next phase of their lives. The last member of our youth who is still in high school is graduating this school year. Connor and Jennie Beth are working to build a transition program for the new children who are about to enter the youth phase. They are brainstorming a once-a-month gathering for children in fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh grades to get them used to coming to church at a different time.

3. Report from the music minister - The music ministry is advertising for a part-time pianist/organist, due to James Cain moving with his family to Eastern Kentucky. Those musicians are difficult to find, but we have two pianists who are willing to fill in a couple of times per month, until we fill the position. Until then, Patty Fejes and Kevin Hilkey are filling the gaps of when the other pianists are not available.

B. Core Values - The Council was given a copy of the LOUMC Core Values, and Vision and Mission statements, and the members were asked to review them.

C. Vision - "Being a community united in Christ." None of us are perfect and none of us have it all figured out, but we are trying to focus on and walk toward Christ together.

D. Mission - Building bridges to show every child of God is worthy of Christ's love.

E. Goals - If our community were thriving two to three years from now, what would be different? Ideas: That we continue to grow on the up-slope of the diagram that

we discussed early. We offer programs for all age groups in our church, whether senior citizens, children, youth, adults, etc, even on a small scale. (Children's hand bell choir or genealogy programs for seniors, etc). Partnering with other churches and going out into the community to worship with others. Help reduce homelessness and hunger in our community. We would have more people to serve, have new opportunities to serve, and stay on the course that we have already charted. More visitation to our shut-ins. More choir members. Being even more welcoming than we already are. A bus ministry. Having Sunday School classes for people of all ages.

F. Objectives
    1. Brainstorming
        a. Problems we face: We need more invitation to get people to the church. We need more younger people. Our choir needs to growing. People complain about things, but aren't willing to help (all talk and no action). We need more leadership training and vision for the future.
        b. Solutions: If we have all of the resources and permissions we needed, how could we solve the "all talk and no action" problem? Have teams. Ask people personally, rather than a blanket "ask". Have a "champion" for a task, who will take the lead and ensure it gets done. Create better communications and develop a timeline. Streamline the process to get permission to do a task. Accomplish tasks in several small "bites" as opposed to trying to get a huge job done all at one time. To get more people involved, we need to have jobs scheduled, and information communicated to the church with specific tasks that people can sign up for. This can eliminate hurdles. How do we get new people to come to our church? Have fun gatherings for people to visit our church in an enjoyable setting. Ensure we have a something worthwhile for people when they come. Advertising and give-aways. Personal invitations. Develop things that increase their faith. Connor: We are struggling with "imagination." We haven't considered changing our worship service, having a service at a different time, or going out into the community to worship where people are. We didn't discuss having a pre-school, like we had at one time. It's like we're beaten down because of our attendance dropping from 250-300 when we first move to this location, to 85. Are we willing to listen to 20, 30, or 40 year olds if we ask them what it would take for them to come to church? If we don't, we won't get them. What we DO do, we do well. But if we want to do new things, we can. However, our biggest challenge now is just getting people to "do". Mission idea: hygiene bag ministry for the homeless. Just talk to them and let them share their story and have positive human interaction.
        c. Wrap up - We need to continue having hard conversations like this and look for solutions to barriers that prevent us from doing what needs to be

done. This would allow us to be the church we want to be, rather than more of the church we already are. This is a turning point. We, as leaders of the church, should continue the conversation of having more imagination, of broadening our vision, and of thinking about what is possible. We are in a healthy place right now, but we need to decide whether we are going to be happy and complacent, or are we going to be hungry to feed more people the bread that we have been nourished by.

VI. Anointing - The Council and guests were anointed by water from the Jordan River.

VII. Closing Prayer and adjournment. Connor led us in prayer. A motion was made by Diane Dodson to adjourn the meeting. A second was made by Ranee Gough. Approved.

The next Council meeting will be held Monday, 21 September 2026, at 6:00 p.m.