



## Meeting summary for Trustees (05/21/2025)

### Quick recap

The trustees meeting began with a prayer and addressed administrative matters, including approval of previous minutes and financial reports. The group discussed a contract with Convergence, explored options for a new church sign, and agreed to move their next meeting date. They concluded by addressing potential assistance for land parcels and future plans for strategic planning.

### Next steps

- [David to follow up with Alan Hubbard from Pro Image Design regarding the electronic sign proposal.](#)
- [Greg to include details about the Convergence contract and strategic planning in the upcoming newsletter.](#)
- [Ken to contact Liz about being added to the church's email and newsletter lists.](#)
- [Trustees to encourage more people to sign up for lawn mowing duties.](#)
- [Trustees to meet on June 25th for the next meeting instead of June 18th.](#)

### Summary

#### Trustees Meeting and Community Planning

The meeting began with a brief discussion about the agenda, noting that the attendees would not arrive for a few minutes. Greg mentioned almost forgetting about the trustees meeting and the upcoming community meal. Kathy Otto joined the conversation, discussing her upcoming time off, and the group briefly talked about the success of the last community meal. Greg inquired about the scheduling of future community meals, noting that the council typically organizes one per year. The group agreed that there was still time to plan the next meal, and Greg suggested it would be good for some members to attend regularly. They also discussed the approval of minutes from the previous meeting, with Greg unsure if they had been approved via email. David and Kathy did not recall the decision either, so they agreed to address this at the current meeting. Greg concluded by mentioning some technical issues with signing into the meeting and his plan to manage the Zoom account himself.

## Trustees Meeting: Attendance and Updates

The meeting of trustees began with Ken offering a prayer, expressing gratitude for the day's weather and the opportunity to gather. David called the meeting to order, and the group discussed the attendance of other members, including Maureen, who was expected to join later. Mary shared her experience of joining a walking group with older individuals and mentioned that Aspen Park was now open, providing a more sheltered environment than the Energy Outlet. The group awaited the arrival of Maureen and noted the presence of the note taker before proceeding with the meeting's agenda.

## Meeting Minutes and Financial Reports

The meeting began with a discussion about the approval of previous meeting minutes, which were sent out by Maureen. After some confusion and debate about whether all members had received and approved them, Kathy moved to approve the minutes, which were seconded by Margaret. The group then moved on to discuss financial reports, with Mary having several questions about them.

## Quarterly Financial Trends Review

Mary expressed concern about a \$1,300 decrease in tithing and highlighted the need for a quarterly report to better track financial trends. Greg clarified that the quarterly report for January through March was sent out on April 12, and David noted that income exceeded the budget for January and February. Greg also explained the \$5,000 expense related to a contract with Convergence, which was approved by the council. The group agreed to monitor tithing trends and ensure future quarterly reports are distributed to all relevant parties.

## Two-Year Contract and Funding Plan

The meeting discussed a \$9,800 contract spanning two years, with \$5,000 coming from the Michigan Conference, including a \$1,000 already received and \$2,000 each in November 2025 and 2026. Greg explained that the remaining \$4,800 would be covered by Bertha Dayton Grants for rural churches, with alternative funding sources identified if needed. The group reviewed the contract details, including coaching, surveys, and community training components, with a steering committee comprising Helen Crandall, Vicki Rigney, and Laura Hoteling working alongside Greg. Ken noted a newsletter clarification issue and planned to address it with Liz, while Greg mentioned submitting 940 paperwork to the accountant for resolution. The conversation ended with a brief mention of updating the electronic sign, scheduled for May 8th with Mary Fox and Greg.

## Church Sign Design Options

David and Mary discussed a meeting with Alan Hubbard from Pro Image Design regarding a new sign for the church. They explored options for the sign's design, including a faux stone base and different LED

display sizes. David will follow up with Hubbard for a proposal, which he estimates could cost between \$20,000 and \$30,000. They also considered involving another company, Stewart Science, after receiving Pro Image Design's proposal.

### Sign Maintenance and Upgrade Planning

The group discussed maintenance and durability of a sign, noting a 5-year guarantee and expected 10-year lifespan without major maintenance, though David mentioned potential issues from ice storms. They reviewed features of a vandal-proof sign with a changeable message, which would include software training for authorized users. David committed to contacting Alan about creating a proposal, emphasizing the need to complete the project before winter, and mentioned the need for more volunteers to sign up for lawn mowing duties. Mary questioned the cost of \$20,000-30,000, to which David did not respond.

### Sign Project Cost Estimates

The group discussed the cost estimates for a sign project, with Greg suggesting a range of \$10,000 to \$30,000 and David mentioning a preliminary quote of around \$23,000 from a sign company. They agreed to wait for Alan's proposals, which will include different types and ranges, before making any decisions. The group also touched on the need for donations and the potential cost of electrical work for the sign, estimated at around \$1,000. David will follow up with Alan to get the proposal, which was expected within a week or 10 days.

### Meeting Rescheduled to June 25

The group agreed to move their next meeting from June 18 to June 25, as Greg will be in Minnesota on the 18th and cannot attend. All members present agreed to the 25th date, with Margaret noting her unavailability. The conversation ended with a prayer led by Greg, who also mentioned potential future plans including strategic planning and a new church sign. After the main meeting, Ken had a brief follow-up question for Mary regarding a previous forestry meeting.

### USDA Land Assistance Inquiry

Ken and Mary discussed contacting Carrie Tipton at the USDA Farm Services Agency to inquire about two parcels of land that may qualify for assistance in making them safe for children. Mary provided Carrie's contact information and advised Ken to call rather than email, as she had received an automated reply to her email inquiry. Ken agreed to contact Carrie directly to discuss the potential qualification of the parcels for assistance.

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Edit

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Best,

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