

Trustee Meeting Minutes – June 4, 2025

Compiled by Zoom AI Companion, Edited by Greg Watling

Attendees: Pastor Greg Watling, David Schopp, Mary Fox, Margaret Hafner, Cathy Otto, Becky Trenda. Absent: Ken Wade, Maureen Derenzy Guest: Alan from Prolmage Sign Company.

The only agenda for the evening was discussion of the proposed LED sign for the church yard.

Quick recap

The group reviewed bids and specifications for a new church sign, exploring options between upgrading the existing sign or installing a new LED message board while considering factors like pixel density, cost, and installation requirements. The discussion concluded with detailed conversations about sign permitting, technical specifications, and pricing, including a review of Watchfire's premium electronic signs and their warranty coverage.

Next steps

- [Alan to ask Jeff from Watchfire if there are any potential cost reductions or better pricing options for the sign.](#)
- [Alan to inquire about any charitable contributions or discounts the sign company might offer for churches or non-profits.](#)
- [Alan to provide a rendering or conceptual image of the proposed sign for the church to use when presenting to the larger group \(with 4-5 days notice\).](#)
- [Dave to follow up with the group about potentially reducing the size of the top \(non-LED\) portion of the sign to save costs.](#)
- [Trustees to consider the option of using reflective lettering for the church name instead of illuminated lettering to reduce costs.](#)
- [Trustees to discuss and decide on whether to proceed with a double-sided sign or explore single-sided options to reduce costs.](#)
- [Trustees to prepare for presenting the sign proposal to the larger church group, including cost justifications and potential benefits.](#)

- **Summary**
- **Church Sign LED Display Options**

- The group discusses the goals and options for a new church sign, including the possibility of enhancing the existing sign or installing a new LED message board. They review technical specifications for LED signs, such as pixel density, with the understanding that smaller pixel pitch (10mm or 8mm) would be more suitable for their needs than larger options like 6mm. The group agrees that a 10mm or 8mm pixel pitch would be appropriate for their location, considering visibility from passing vehicles and cost implications.
- **Electronic Church Sign Design Discussion**
- The group discussed various electronic signs and their components, including how sign makers purchase electronic parts from third-party vendors like Watchfire. They examined different sign designs, including one with a permanent name section and a changeable message part, and discussed the importance of blending the sign's appearance with the church's architecture. The discussion also touched on the weight and support needs of large signs, with some examples showing signs mounted between columns or on bases to handle the weight.
- **Sign Installation and Cost Options**
- The group discussed sign installation options and costs, with two bids received: one for \$23,000 and another for \$36,000, though the former did not include installation.
- **Sign Permitting Discussion**
- The team discussed sign permitting with the city's zoning administrator, who preliminarily approved a 30-square-foot sign with a 3x5 message center. They clarified that the sign would include a 15-square-foot ID section at the top and two electronic message centers, all measuring 3x5 feet. Alan explained that the ID section would be designed during the design phase with church input, featuring an illuminated name panel.
- **Watchfire Sign Quality and Cost**
- Alan explained that Watchfire, the brand of electronic signs they sell, is a premium U.S.-made product with a long history and reliable support. He noted that while there are cheaper Asian-made alternatives, they prefer Watchfire for its durability and long-term support. When asked about cost reduction options, Alan suggested considering a 16mm sign instead of the 10mm option, which could save about \$4,000 but still maintain quality. He also mentioned that Watchfire could provide a demonstration to show the difference between various sign sizes.
- **Watchfire Warranty and Product Lifespan**
- Alan explained that Watchfire provides a 5-year warranty covering both parts and labor for their products, with a typical life expectancy of 10-12 years before parts support is discontinued. He noted that signs older than 14 years may still be repairable using replacement parts, either from new or used sources, and that Watchfire's standardized chassis design allows for field upgrades to newer display technologies after 10 years.
- **Church Sign Upgrade Options**
- The group discussed options for a church sign, focusing on cost savings and design choices. Alan explained using reflective lettering on a static sign to save around \$2,500 versus the lighted option. The group briefly touched on the electric costs of LED lighting, with Alan estimated the daily operational cost of around \$1.25.
- **Sign Installation Cost and Specifications**
- Alan also noted a lead time of 6-8 weeks for the project and mentioned that customizations like a curvy top design could be accommodated within the same budget.

- **Digital Sign Pricing and Capabilities**

- The group discussed pricing for a digital sign, noting an 8% cost increase due to tariffs. Alan agreed to check with Jeff from Watchfire about potential better pricing or future cost reductions. They explored the sign's software capabilities, including the ability to display text, images, and pre-made templates, with Alan offering to provide training and design support at no extra cost. The group also discussed creating a rendering or picture to help pitch the sign to their larger community group.

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