McFARLAND UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST
A Church with Heart

Group Name	Servant Leadership Team (SaLT)
Date	May 14th, 2026
Recorder	Diane Mikelbank

In Attendance:
Rev. Robert Koepcke, Walt Jackson (Moderator), Lisa Schweitzer (Vice Moderator), Kathy Schwenn (Treasurer), Kristen Broderick (SaLT Member), Cody DeWayne (SaLT Member), Amy Cavi (SaLT Member), Diane Mikelbank (Clerk), Rev. Zena Tomley - Middleton
Absent:

Agenda Item/ Topic	Discussion / Decision	Action
Opening Prayer	Walt opened the meeting with a prayer	
Invited Members & Guests wishing to present business from below items		
Final Approval of the April 9th, 2026 Meeting Minutes		Kathy moved and Kristen seconded approval of minutes for approval. Minutes approved unanimously.
Treasurer's Report (Kathy)	**General Fund Revenues and Cash Balances:** • April's expenses ($19,058) exceeded revenues ($17,485) by ($1,573). Revenues were over budget by $956 for the month. • Contributions were up compared to April 2025 by $5,122. This was due to one large donation received this month. • Two prepaid donations from Edward Jones PIMCO were processed this month due to Edward Jones not processing March's donation until early April. • The amount needed to meet budget is $15,913 per month. The current 12 month rolling average is $14,327 per month. This is a slight increase from March. I will keep watching this metric.	

	• Per SaLT, MUCC should have 4 months of operating expenses in our unrestricted cash accounts. Per this policy, we should have $63,650 available. The balance in the unrestricted funds for April 2026 was $56,852. Per agreed upon policy, cash reserves are to be evaluated based on the June and December financials. **General Fund Expenses:** • Easter Egg Hunt expenses were recorded in April. Put to Faith Development. • First quarter OCWM expense was paid in April. The budget was recorded in March which accounts for a $4,275 variance to budget. • The 2026 WI UCC dues were paid in April. The budget was recorded in March which accounts for a $828 variance to budget. • Expenses for the annual WI UCC conference were recorded in April. • ICON annual license ($660) was paid in April. • Organist played 7 services in April due to extra Easter services. • We changed janitorial companies, and the cost went from $170/month to $200/month. • Funded the Long-term Capital Needs for March and April in April. **Restricted Funds:** • Received $663 in interest from our 6-month Edward Jones CD in April. This CD was renewed for another 6 months at 3.9%. • Moved $2,574 of Memorial funds to Outreach.	
Committee & Mission Team Updates 1. Finance Committee 2. Outreach Funds Committee 3. Buildings and Grounds 4. Befriender Care Team 5. Creation Care Team 6. Social Justice Collective 7. Youth Update	**1. Finance Committee -** (Kathy) CD matured and was invested for another 6 months. **2. Outreach Funds Committee** - (Walt and Kathy) **3. Buildings and Grounds -** No report **4. Befriender Care Team** - (Walt) No report **5. Creation Care Team** - (Diane) **6. Social Justice Collective Team -** (Amy Cavi) **7. Youth Update -** (Cody) Discussed briefly the status of fundraising for the youth trip.	
Old Business -	**Final update and Status of ongoing Worship Welcome & Announcement - Walt and Lisa** Announcement period is going better. People like various people doing the welcome. Make sure we say who we are and why various people are offering the welcome. We are all taking turns doing the announcements in an effort to make everyone aware of who serves on SaLT.	

	Final Update on Work Group Formation & Tasks (Walt) The group has completed their work and finalized the official church membership number. **Final Update of prior SaLT member sticker for name tag and purpose - Walt** People have been asking where the stickers are and we are reporting that SaLT has decided not to do them. **Further Discussion on Involvement in SaLT when not a member of SaLT - Walt and All** If people ask about this, we are using their skills and any policies created would be approved through SaLT. **Approval of Pastor Discretionary Fund Policy - Diane** A committee met to develop the policy. Rev. Robert supports the policy as written.	Diane moves and Lisa seconds approval of the Pastor Discretionary Funds Policy. Approved unanimously. Diane will share with Ginger to be posted on the website.
New Business **Formation of new work group and potential new committee - Kathy and Walt** **Any other new business** **Pastor's Share Time (Robert)**	**Formation of new work group and potential new committee - Kathy and Walt** The new group would deal with technology and information management (ICON) so more people have a background on the use of this software. It would not be just ICON but also technology in general. How to recruit people for this committee was discussed including making an announcement at church. IDEA: Service Fair - all the ways to provide service at the church would be present. In addition, we would add this new committee. Perhaps in the Fall. Cody will take the lead on this and we will add it to next month's SaLT agenda. **Any other new business -** **Rev. Zayna Thomley - Middleton Community Church -** Shared details of a project they are working on with hope that McFarland UCC will help them in this effort. Recalling the "God is Still Speaking" Campaign (20 years ago) - an idea started a year ago on finding a way to challenge Christian Nationalism and the public's misconception that all churches share these beliefs. After working with a marketing firm, the concept is to teach churches how to talk about what we are doing, similar to the Still Speaking campaign. **What can we do?** Dane Co has many All open and affirming congregations 1. Christian Nationalism: churches are getting smaller and the Christian Nationalism voice in the world is getting louder. We can talk about the church we know and the Jesus we know. 2. SmallGood and Effective Marketing (Marketing companies) - have experience working with churches trying to increase membership. 3. Compassion and dignity for people when inclusion is under attack. People are actively looking for hope and community. Churches are good at	Walt will talk to Colleen and Tom and then there will be an announcement about it at church. Rev. Robert will share the information from Smallgood with the SaLT Team Amy made a motion and Kathy seconded to support the Project presented and have Rev. Robert attending the meeting in June.

	belonging and community and people don't know they can find that at churches anymore. 4. Make sure people around us know that there are churches that are not aligned with Christian Nationalism. 5. We hear all the time when people go to UCC churches that they didn't know churches like this existed. 6. Churches where love is greater than fear. **Proposal:** Showed us various examples of promotion. **Approach:** Put together a team 3 phases 1. Representatives from the churches will meet to determine goals and how they will be measured 2. Phase 2 - put content out to the world for a few months. 3. Once the word is out there, get others to join in. **Build a website:** If you are looking for a church like this, it would send them to these churches. All 3 phases will cost close to $100,000. Have already raised $40,000. The Conference will support ⅓ of the cost. They are also going to reach out to individual donors. Churches that have committed so far: from $200 to $10 - $15,000 - understanding that this is for the good of everyone. **Questions:** Churches: (9) - Middleton, Madison Christian Community, Orchard Ridge, Plymouth, Memorial, Salem, Paoli **What kind of commitment?** There is no specific dollar amount. **Sharing with our Congregation:** They are all pastors, so sharing on a Sunday morning would be difficult. Rachel Bauman may be willing to come and speak about this. **Kick off meeting in June-** just one person from each church should attend. So far, it has been all church pastors, although others are welcome to represent. They would like the church to commit to it so they know if our name should be included. Nobody has given any money yet - it would go through the WI Foundation and that is being set up right now. **Faith Formation Planning Group:** Lisa shared that a small group had a discussion about Faith Formation - Lisa proposed a Call to Action Work Group to start meeting in June - anybody willing to share their gifts and work with the youth of the congregation would gather and share the responsibility. **Pastor's Share Time (Robert)**	Diane moved that we support forming a work group to explore Faith Formation opportunities for youth of all ages. Kathy seconds the motion. Motion carries. Lisa S. will make this an open call for anyone who wants to be involved. She will plan a meeting for June. Robert will ask around for people who would be willing to share a

	Next month at SaLT, Jeff Briggs and Robert will offer a presentation on **Behavioral Covenants** - a way of promoting civil conversations. (Add to next agenda). How we honor one another and deal with our differences. **Stewardship** - Andrew Warner - Chief Generosity Officer for the conference. Appreciative Inquiry - Testimony - have people share why people give of their time and talent to the church.	testimony and why they give to the church.
Sunday Services	**Outreach Third Sunday Topic** **Scheduling** -	
Next SaLT Mtg.	Thursday, June 11th at 6:00 p.m. Agenda Items: Service Fair, Behavioral Covenants presentation, Technology Work Group, Faith Formation Group	
Closing Prayer	Robert closed the meeting with a prayer.	