

TL3 Meeting – May 18, 2026

Attendees: Fred Bailey, Tracey Briggs, Gary Brockway, Phil Crouch, Diane McEntire, Loring McIntyre, True Morse, Jennifer Prince, Jill Rhinehart, John Smith. **Guest:** Julie Arnall, Will Troxell (Will left after sanctuary LED screens discussion)

Absent: Pam Rogalski

LOVING

1. Will opened the meeting with prayer
2. The group shared blessings and concerns about each other as well as other members of the Groce church family.
3. **Growing the Family of God at Groce updates.** No updates discussed

LEARNING

1. Sanctuary LED screens

- a. True introduced the topic
 - i. Jennifer requested there be further discussion to better understand the options considered and the level of awareness and communication that has occurred with the congregation
 - ii. The initiative links back to the 2024 roundtables as well as the Spring 2025 TL3 determination that this would be a top 3 priority for the church in addition to becoming more multi-generational and an electronic messaging capable lawn sign.
 - iii. Communication about this being a priority had occurred through the TL3 meeting notes in the Messenger after the March 2025 TL3 meeting and the May and October 2025 Church Family meetings though no placement images of the sanctuary were shared at that time since the location had not been determined
- b. Will reviewed the technical evaluation of the different location options and why where the banners are located on the front wall is by far the best location as well as the visual quality and capability of the screens with contributions from Fred. Diane and Phil voiced that they were concerned the monitors would not be seen well from the back of the church. Will and Fred stated that with the technology and clarity of the 75-inch screens, the people in the back of the sanctuary should have no problem seeing the screens.
- c. Jill shared her experiences with how LED screens can enhance the worship experience but ultimately it is the church's decision if they are to be installed
- d. Jennifer shared her personal concerns with this type of technology being part of the sanctuary in addition to concerns that there has not been sufficiently level of communication and awareness with the congregation
- e. Everyone contributed thoughts around this consequential change and the process of communicating the change to the sanctuary worship space.
- f. **ACTIONS:**
 - i. Information in the 6/1 Messenger about the LED screens including that multiple options were considered, key factors used to evaluate the options, sharing would occur with the Worship and Witness Ministry team in June and an image of the recommended option
 - ii. Review this with Worship and Witness at a June meeting
 - iii. Jill to touch on this during some worship services leading up to the June 14th Church Family meeting encouraging people to stay for the meeting to see what the LED screens will look like in the sanctuary and the why/how of this decision
 - iv. Present the screens in the June 14th Church Family meeting

2. **4/27/26 meeting notes were approved**

3. **Rummage Sale**

- a. Gary, Diane, Jennifer and Jill reviewed the notes from the recent meeting that included Pam Rogalski

- b. The target date for the sale is Saturday 9/12 in Asbury Hall, so weather is not a factor
 - c. Proceeds will be used to increase Groce's cash balance which will need to be clearly communicated
 - d. Tracey shared the concept that might be considered for next year that would be focused on providing resources as people downsize leading up to people donating things for the rummage sale
4. **SPRC – Youth Director hiring**
- a. Diane and Jill reported that the position was posted 5/18 on Indeed
 - b. Coordination is occurring with Mills River UMC in case there is an opportunity that someone wants to cover both positions like Kelley did
 - c. Love offering for Kelley will occur on Sundays 5/24, 5/31 and 6/7
5. **Financial**
- a. Gary reviewed with the group the recent alignment discussed at the 4/27 TL3 meeting is a healthy cash balance is \$110,000 which covers half of month of Operations expenses and the total of the restricted funds less the endowment fund and the apartment fund
 - b. The cash balance has increased from the last meeting to \$98,106 (5/18 Truist checking of \$90,369 PLUS 5/18 count team deposit of \$7,737) so we are making progress. True noted that there are a couple other accounts such as the \$5,000 for paying the youth director in 2026 that would improve this number further.
 - c. The Italian Dinner grossed \$1,555. Fred stated the expenses should be under \$200.

LEADING

6. **Trustees**
- a. **Rekeying** complete except for 2 doors
 - b. **Clearing debris along Governors View Road** removed by an angel City employee, Loring and True
 - c. **Playground drainage** installation will occur 6/17-19 by Loring and True. The estimated cost has come down to about \$1400 due to Loring's friend providing the stone at a reduced price as a donation. It might be that the playground border and wood chips can also be installed and stay within the \$3500 Jill has allocated in the Music Camp grant funds for the playground.
 - d. **Alternative income sources**
 - i. Follow up still occurring on Steeplecom. **ACTIONS:** Jill to follow up with Abernathy UMC and the UMC General Commission on Finance and Administration about Steeplecom using information True found. Loring to follow up more on Steeplecom.
 - ii. Reviewed the 2025 Duke Endowment article about Reimagining Church Real Estate which described the role of the Wesley Community Development using the program it created called Seed of Change in helping churches to better utilize church property. **ACTION:** Jill to follow up with the Wesley Community Development about Seeds of Change.
7. **External facility users**
- a. **User agreements and insurance.** Loring, True, Mariah and Gayle have had two meetings reviewing all user agreements for compliance with the 2025 facility usage policy, especially rates and signed agreements. Mariah is following up with each user and is also asking for their insurance coverage. From Gayle's and True's review of Groce insurance coverage, anyone who is not a Groce "volunteer" or "staff" should have their own insurance. There needs to be a conversation with our insurance carrier to ensure we are implementing this the right way. Once Mariah has insurance status from each user, Loring, True, Mariah and Gayle will evaluate things again.
 - b. **Groce's direct building operating costs.**
 - i. True reviewed an analysis of Groce's direct building operating costs to inform what the space rental rates should be for dedicated space such as what is occurring on the upper level of Epworth. Groce is not charging enough to breakeven on the space when considering how much of Epworth does not have any rent income and needs to consider increasing the rent rates and the rentable spaces. This analysis shows it takes about \$4.29/SF to breakeven.

- ii. Input on this is being obtained from Trinity UMC and First Baptist. True will also contact Central UMC.
 - iii. It was agreed we should not commit to anyone on the recently vacated upper Epworth space until we have finalized what we should be charging. This will also impact that we tell the existing tenants the increase will be for 2027.
 - iv. Gary noted the existing upper tenants are not highly utilizing the space over the course of the whole year and over the course of each week. Since that impacts the amount of money they are making it reduces how much they can pay in rent. If Groce had occupants that used the space more intensively for income production they could afford to pay more rent.
 - v. **ACTION:** True to continue to refine this analysis obtaining input from the 3 other churches or other relevant sources.
8. **2026 goals, priorities, aspirations and challenges.** Do to time constraints there was no discussion.
- a. **External communications, social media.**
 - b. **Spring open house and picnic** [UMM decided not to do a summer picnic but instead focus on the 9/20 worship through service event being planned by Outreach]
 - c. **Multi-generational and cross-generational relationship emphasis**
 - d. **Financial stewardship**
 - e. **Ministry team support**

HOUSEKEEPING

- 1. Confidential topics - None
- 2. Future meeting topics or efforts –
- 3. Next meetings –
 - a. June – Sunday, 6/14 – Church Family meeting
 - b. June – Tuesday, 6/16
 - c. July – NO MEETING
 - d. August – Monday, 8/17