Leadership Council Meeting Summary

October 5, 2026

The Leadership Council met on October 5 to review stewardship, financial, and facilities updates, finalize the proposed bylaws, and prepare for the November 15 Congregational Meeting.

The meeting was opened with prayer.

Approval of Minutes

The Council unanimously approved the minutes from its September 28 meeting.

Consecration Season

The Council reviewed plans for this year's Consecration season:

- **An email will invite the congregation to begin praying and thinking about their giving commitment.**
- **A letter with a brochure, giving information, and a pledge card will follow by mail.**
- **Giving Sundays will be October 18, October 25, and November 1.**

Financial Update

Giving to the General Fund remains healthy and ahead of budget for the year. Summer giving was uneven but finished close to budget overall, and September and early October have been strong. The Council is grateful for the faithful generosity of the New Ridge family.

Creative Moments has exceeded its goal for new fall enrollments, which will help offset the usual summer dip.

Planning for the 2027 budget will begin with staff in the coming weeks.

Facilities Update

- **The old play schoolhouse has been taken down by a volunteer crew. Thank you to everyone who helped.**
- **Fire safety inspection work has been completed.**
- **The church's insurance inspection has been completed, and the recommendations are being reviewed.**
- **Follow-up is underway on heating and insulation for the back stairwell.**
- **Removal of the deteriorating deck at the modular building has been cleared to move forward, and a crew is being organized.**

Bylaws and Decision Lane Finalization

The Council reviewed the attorneys' comments and made final decisions on the proposed bylaws. Key outcomes include:

- **Clarified membership language, including baptism, active membership, and a clear timeline and written notice for inactive status.**
- **Confirmed that the Leadership Council may raise matters on its own initiative, and that it works in collaboration with the Lead Pastor.**
- **Confirmed that the Lead Pastor's title as president of the corporation is a legal and signing role only and does not place the Lead Pastor in authority over the Leadership Council. Council officers will use the titles Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.**
- **Replaced "committee" with "task force" and used gender-neutral language throughout.**
- **Clarified that future bylaw amendments will be recommended by the Leadership Council and affirmed by a two-thirds vote of eligible active members.**
- **The Statement of Faith will be attached as a formal exhibit, consistent with the version on the church website.**

The Decision Lane document (authority matrix) was also updated, including moving responsibility for maintaining the Leadership Manual to the Leadership Council.

After a final clean copy is received from the attorneys and minor formatting cleanup is done, the bylaws, Decision Lane document, and a link to submit questions will be emailed to the congregation by October 15. Printed copies will be available at the welcome desk on request.

Congregational Vote Preparation

The membership record date for determining eligible voters is August 17, 2026. The Council discussed how the list of active members will be prepared and agreed to be inclusive rather than exclusive in applying the active membership criteria.

A Congregational Meeting update email will go out this week, followed by the full bylaws packet next week. The Congregational Meeting page on the church website is ready.

The meeting was closed with prayer.