

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes (Rick's Version)

December 8, 2025

Attending: Tyler Gold (Treasurer), Gary Schmuhl, Kris Schmuhl, Spencer Johnson (Board), Diane Wenzel (staff), Rick Blum (Staff), Nan Schilling, Sara Ritter, Sarah Wehnes Guest)

Not attending: Adam Frey

Quick recap

The finance committee reviewed generosity numbers, gift acceptance policies, and facilities fund plans, including proposed repairs and transfers to the foundation. The committee approved facilities fund recommendations and discussed future campaign needs for additional funding, while also addressing maintenance plans and HVAC replacements.

Church Finance Committee Introduction Meeting

The meeting began with introductions around the room, with each participant sharing their name, role, and tenure at the church. Rick Blum, the Director of Administration, introduced himself and Tyler Gold, the current treasurer, while Spencer Johnson, Greg Black, Sara Ritter, and Diane Wenzel also shared their backgrounds and roles. Nan Schilling, part of the audit committee, was introduced, and Sarah Wehnes, who works in auditing and accounting, was welcomed to the meeting. The group discussed the purpose of the meeting, with Rick mentioning that Sarah Wehnes might be joining the Finance Committee as the new treasurer.

2026 Fundraising and Facilities Plan

Rick presented updates on three key topics: generosity numbers, gift acceptance policy, and facilities fund plans. The church is \$58,000 short of its \$1.439 million 2026 fundraising goal, but Rick remains cautiously optimistic about meeting it. The board-approved gift acceptance policy excludes cryptocurrency donations for now. **Facilities Fund and Campaign Planning**

The finance committee approved a facilities fund proposal, recommending \$550,000 be moved to the foundation in Q3 2026, with the remaining \$159,829 set aside as Verona seed money in the board designated reserve fund.. A communication plan is being developed to explain these changes to the congregation, starting with a January Messenger profile of Judy McCausland.

Motion to approve plan by Tyler Gold, seconded by Gary Schmuhl. The plan passed unanimously.

They discussed the need for a potential future campaign to raise an additional \$500,000-600,000/year, with half going to facilities and half for new staff positions. The committee also addressed HVAC unit replacements needed for the main office and reviewed Steve Frei's 20-year maintenance plan, which includes parking lot replacements costing approximately \$520,000.

Next steps

- [Rick: Send recording and AI transcript to Nan by tomorrow morning](#)
- [Rick: Interview someone tomorrow morning about Judy McCausland's story for January messenger profile](#)
- [Rick: Present facilities fund proposal to board next Tuesday](#)
- [Tyler: Present final treasurer report to board meeting](#)
- [Rick: Work with Amber Bol to create FAQ page on website about facilities fund](#)
- [Rick: Prepare communication plan materials for January messenger including Judy McCausland profile and facilities fund explanation](#)
- [Steve Fry's subcommittee: Begin meeting in January to prioritize facilities projects and create annual budget recommendations](#)
- [Rick: Add financial schedule discussion to board meeting agenda to accommodate new treasurer timing](#)
- [Foundation: Work with church to establish investment plan for \\$550,000 facilities fund transfer](#)