# Charter Oak Church
# Church Council Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2026 – Council Meeting

**Council Members:** Bob Carter, Wendell Davis, Duane Goodsell, Ben Little, Steve Manges, Jordan Morran, Adam Pardee, Amanda Polinsky, Brian Quinn, Larry Rybacki, Garth Shaner, Autumn Vinopal, Chris Whitehead, Jason Halfhill (Ex-Officio), Kristi Fellers (Ex-Officio)

**Absent**: Wendell Davis, Adam Pardee

**Guest Attendance:** Shawn Lehman, Jonathan Hartland, Nathan Anderson, Kathy Anderson, Mitchell Ross, Denny Fellers, Nick Beaken, Ty Holler

**Prayer:** Duane Goodsell

**Review the August 2026 Meeting Minutes**

- MOTION by Brian Quinn to accept the August Church Council Meeting Minutes.
  - Motion 2nd by Bob Carter.
  - Motion ACCEPTED (10-0-1).

**Finance Report:** Larry Rybacki

- See the attached documents titled Treasurer Report 09-17-26 and Treasurer Report Summary Notes 09-17-26
  - The first month of FY 26/27 reflects strong giving, controlled expenses, improving liquidity, and a healthy overall financial position.

**Questions/Comments from Visitors**

- Nathan Anderson expressed a veil of cultural awkwardness over this topic and his desire to be clear that the Imago Dei reigns. He believes that women can be called to ministry, yet he believes that a woman's call to pastorship is prohibited by Scripture. He expressed confusion over the stance of Charter Oak Church.
  - Chris Whitehead stated that we would not do anything that is considered a sin in Scripture, and that women being called to pastoral roles in the church is not considered a sin.
  - Jordan Morran stated that Church Council Members were made aware last month that a female candidate was going to be brought onsite to candidate.
- Kathy Anderson asked if the body of Charter Oak Church is aware of the GMC stance on women in pastor roles.
  - Amanda Polinsky reminded everyone that our former Presiding Elder in the GMC was a woman.
- Nathan Anderson stated that a few people have come to him with concern over a female pastor at the Jeannette Campus.
  - Nathan shared three points of Scripture that he feels speak against women in pastoral leadership. He urged Church Council Members to weigh their decision based on Scripture since approving a female pastor for Jeannette would set a precedent for Charter Oak Church.

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- Autumn Vinopal expressed gratitude to Nathan Anderson and Chris Whitehead for sharing their differing theological views.
- Mitchell Ross expressed his pride in Charter Oak Church for their unwavering commitment to the truth of God's Word. On the matter at hand, though, he believes that appointing a female pastor to the Jeannette Campus would be in direct opposition to Scripture. He feels an obligation to speak up since becoming aware of the female candidate. He gave warnings of upcoming disunity over the passing of this decision.
    - Responding to Mitchell's comment, Jason Halfhill added that the process has not been rushed. The teams have taken the process seriously.
    - Jordan Morran added that none of the search processes have been rushed.
- Jonathan Hartland expressed thanks to those who shared their opinions. As a Campus Pastor of Charter Oak Church and a lifelong member of the United Methodist Church, having a female pastor in leadership is normative for him. He searches Scripture too, yet he sees a different conclusion than Nathan, Kathy, and Mitchell. He stands with the GMC in allowing women to have authority over men. Throughout Scripture, God gives examples of women with authority. At Charter Oak Church, we have lived examples of women being affirmed in leadership over men. We are under the spiritual authority of the GMC.
- Shawn Lehman expressed that he shares Jon's same interpretation of Scripture and supports women in pastoral leadership. He stated that as a GMC church, it would be surprising for a candidate to come here to learn that we do not accept women in pastoral leadership.
- Nathan Anderson clarified that he is not opposed to a woman's call to ministry, rather he is opposed to a woman's call to pastor and elder.
- Nick Beaken asked for clarification on both theological views.
    - Pastor Chris shared his views of 1 Timothy. He discussed the differences between egalitarianism and complementarianism. He discussed the nuances of 1 Timothy 3.
- Chris Whitehead explained the polity of appointing a pastor through our denomination.
- Ty Holler expressed his belief that there should not be a vote because of the lack of unity in theological opinion. He expressed his concern over losing the unity that we gained in the disaffiliation from the UMC over a decision like this. He stated that communication is of essence in this process, regardless of the outcome.
- Jordan Morran stated that people who become active in a church have the responsibility to ask questions about issues that are important to them. Jordan shared her experience as a woman in ministry leadership at Charter Oak Church. She encouraged people who have issues with a potential appointment should sit down with their pastor to talk through them.
- Chris Whitehead expressed his value for everyone in attendance tonight. He greatly values every relationship and encouraged everyone to help the leaders of the church stay faithful to God's Word.

**Old Business**

- Open Items
    - Directed Giving Initiative
        - The conversation will continue at a future meeting.
    - FY 25/26 Surplus Discussion
        - Capital Improvement Items
            - The conversation will continue at a future meeting.

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- Ministry Area Proposals
  - There was a $292K surplus in the FY 25/26 budget. We have a $92K surplus beyond the capital improvement items. The Campus Pastors have submitted ministry ideas for their campus. It was suggested to direct the entire amount, allowing authority to Chris and Jason to make investment decisions.
  - Church Council Members discussed potential ministry ideas for each campus, as proposed by our Campus Pastors.
  - It was suggested that our capital improvement items can be funded by our capital improvement reserve. Many Church Council Members expressed a desire to use a large portion of the surplus to fund new ministry areas.
    - It was suggested to celebrate building the kingdom through stories and reports back to Church Council.
  - Jason Halfhill suggested taking $100K to create a ministry area reserve fund so that these amounts can be tracked.
  - MOTION by Garth Shaner to move $100K from unrestricted cash into a Ministry Grants reserve account.
    - Motion 2nd by Duane Goodsell.
    - Motion APPROVED (11-0-0).
  - The Ministry Grants reserve account will be added to the Treasurer Report each month. Any awarded grants will be noted on the Executive Director Report.
- Minimum Unrestricted Cash on Hand (Percentage of Operating Expense)
  - The conversation will continue at a future meeting.

- Executive Director Report (Jason Halfhill)
  - Facility Updates
    - FF Main Water Line Repair
      - We have signed a quote with MuniWorx to install a leak detection monitor on the main water line. The price is $1,352. We are waiting to confirm the installation date. We are waiting on 2 additional quotes for the repair of the line with new gate and pressure reducing valves. The 1st quote we received was $33,647.
    - FF Fire Alarm System
      - We are waiting on a quote from CertaSite. The 1st quote we received was $25,280.
      - We have opportunity to apply for grants through the Scott Foundation.
    - New Givers to Charter Oak Church – August 2025 vs August 2026
      - 2025 – 7 new givers ($492)
      - 2026 – 13 new givers ($1,312)
      - New givers increased 85.7%
      - Giving amount increased 166.8%

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- Charter Oak Church Institute will be holding a seminar called "Healthy Boundaries Make Effective Leaders" on Tuesday, October 6 from 6:00-8:30PM. In this seminar, attendees will discover how healthy boundaries bring clarity, focus, trust, and emotional health to teams while encouraging connection and accountability. They will also gain practical insights for leading themselves and others with greater purpose, health, and effectiveness, and learn the value of creating the right environment for people to thrive.
- This Fall, FF Kids Ministry will be introducing an elementary after school program called Wonder Club to be held at the Frye Farm Campus. In partnership with Greater Latrobe School District and DMJ Transportation, elementary kids will have an opportunity to take part in a meaningful, curiosity based, faith driven, and highly engaging afterschool option. Each Wednesday evening from 4:00-6:00PM, students will be provided with a hearty snack, play games, and participate in S.T.E.A.M. activities.
- Missions
  - Big Creek Fall Mission trip is October 4 – 8 with 16 "goers" attending.
  - Intro To Missions Journey Class will be held at the Frye Farm Campus Thursday, October 15 from 6:00 – 8:00PM.
- The ministry partnership agreement for the MidTown Plaza construction loan has been signed. Closing is expected in mid-October.
- Rain has delayed the timeline for the parking lot renovations at the MidTown Plaza.
- Roof supplies for the MidTown Plaza have been ordered and should arrive by the end of September. Once the roof is replaced and the loan is finalized, construction can begin at the Greensburg Campus.

**New Business**

- Ministry – COC Institute (Wins, Challenges, Stories)
  - The Spring Institute Cohort was very successful. In the cohort were ten people who grew close through the four month process. We celebrated that many stepped into new leadership roles at their campuses.
  - Four young people worked as interns over the summer. This year presented a couple of challenges, but it allowed the team to promote a new way of finding interns in the future.
  - This fall, the seminars continue with a focus on Bible and leadership.
  - The goal of the Institute is to equip disciples to think theologically in preparation for ministry leadership.
  - There will be a new Institute Cohort this fall.
- Frye Farm Campus Staff Request
  - See the attached documents titled Hiring Packet – Administrative Assistant and Administrative Assistant – FF 2026
  - Church Council Members discussed aspects of the role and responsibilities.

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- MOTION by Amanda Polinsky to approve adding an Administrative Assistant for the Frye Farm Campus on a part-time basis.
  - Motion 2nd by Brian Quinn.
  - Motion APPPROVED (11-0-0).

**Open Items for Next Month's Meeting**

- Directed Giving Initiative
- FY 25/26 Surplus Discussion
  - Capital Improvement Items
- Minimum Unrestricted Cash on Hand (Percentage of Operating Expense)

**Executive Session**

- Church Council went into Executive Session.

**Next Church Council Meeting**

- Thursday, October 15, 2026

Respectfully Submitted,
Kristi Fellers
September 17, 2026

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**Treasurer's Notes: Aug '26**

** Numbers are based on a Revenue Budget of $3,195,409, and an Expense Budget of $3,015,264

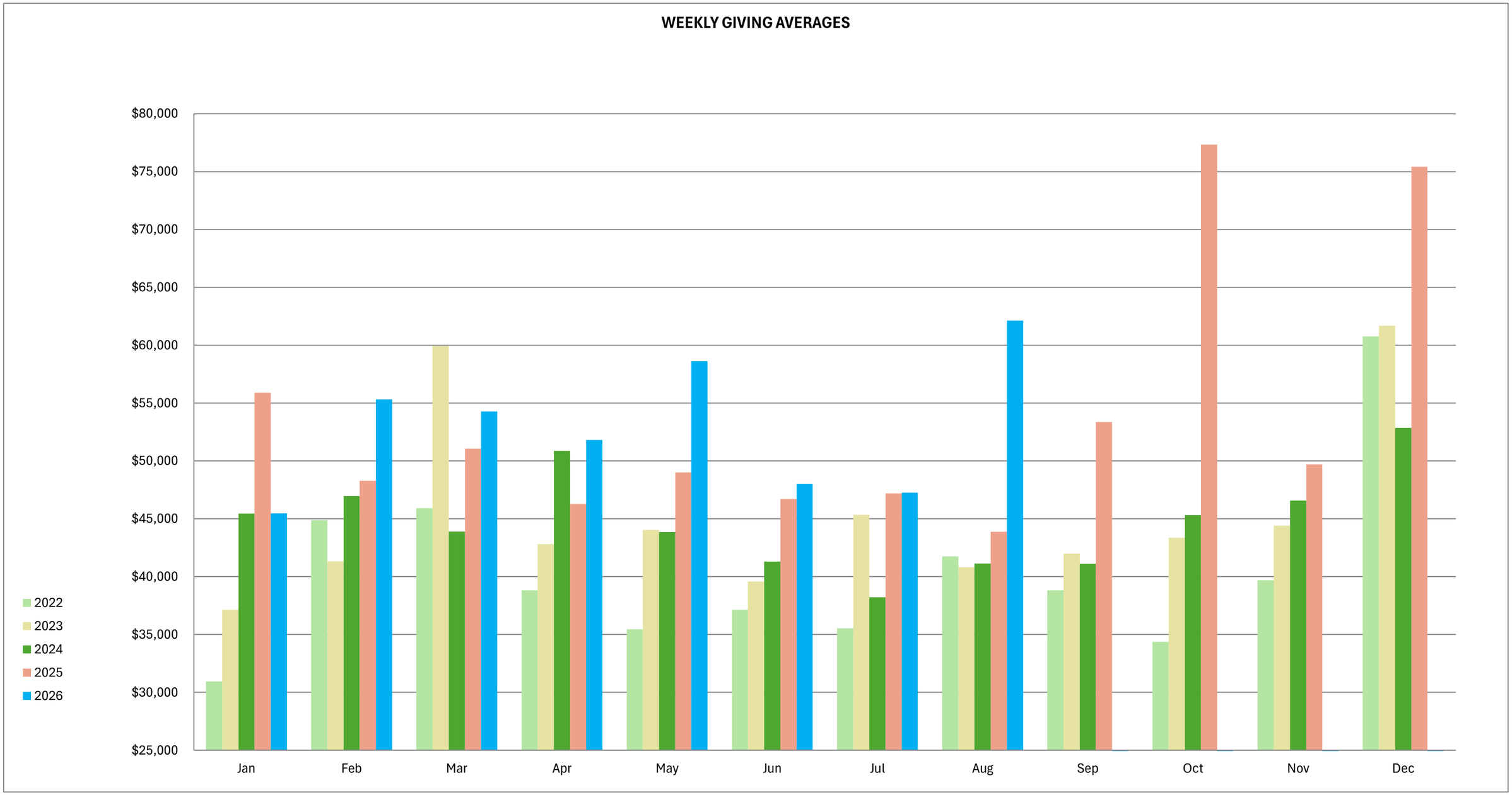
| Revenue | Aug-26 | 1 MONTH ENDED 08/31/26 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Frye Farm | 245,566 | 245,566 | | |
| Central Services | - | - | | |
| Expansion | - | - | | |
| Crossroads | 34,386 | 34,386 | | |
| Jeannette | 17,053 | 17,053 | | % of |
| Mt Pleasant / Scottdale | 13,624 | 13,624 | Budget | Bdgt. |
| **Totals** | **310,629** | **310,629** | 3,195,409 | 10% |
| **2025/2026** | 194,263 | 194,263 | Note>1/12= | 8% |

| Expenses | Aug-26 | 1 MONTH ENDED 08/31/26 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Frye Farm | 137,800 | 137,800 | | |
| Central Services | 23,400 | 23,400 | | |
| Expansion | - | - | | |
| Crossroads | 31,532 | 31,532 | | |
| Jeannette | 481 | 481 | | % of |
| Mt Pleasant / Scottdale | 15,243 | 15,243 | Budget | Bdgt. |
| **Totals** | **208,457** | **208,457** | 3,015,264 | 7% |
| **2025/2026** | 245,509 | 245,509 | Note>1/12= | 8% |

| | Aug-26 | 1 MONTH ENDED 08/31/26 | Budget |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Unadjusted Net Income** | 102,173 | 102,173 | 180,145 |
| **Mortgage Principal** | (9,550) | (9,550) | |
| **Adjusted Total Profit / (Loss)** | **92,623** | **92,623** | |
| **2025/2026 Unadjusted Net Income** | (51,246) | (51,246) | |

| Available Cash | Aug-26 | Jul-26 | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Total Bank Accounts** | 1,526,538 | 1,332,803 | 193,735 |
| **Outstanding Payables / Prepaids** | 10,921 | 8,612 | (2,309) |
| **Payroll Liabilities** | (27,551) | (27,237) | 314 |
| **Reserve Commitments** | (939,438) | (839,411) | 100,027 |
| **Unrestricted Cash** | $ 570,471 | $ 474,767 | $ 95,704 |

| Balances of Select Reserve Accounts: | Aug-26 | Jul-26 | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Crossroads Future Start Up** | 163,442 | 163,317 | 125 |
| **Reserve for Capital Improvement** | 217,493 | 204,421 | 13,071 |
| **Strengthening Our Future** | 165,165 | 164,774 | 391 |
| **COC Holdings LLC Operating Account** | 5,010 | 14,953 | (9,943) |
| **Reserve Capital Campaign** | - | - | - |




| Weekly Giving Averages | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Weekly Avg/Mo |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **2022** | $ 30,953 | $ 44,876 | $ 45,915 | $ 38,804 | $ 35,449 | $ 37,142 | $ 35,532 | $ 41,748 | $ 38,811 | $ 34,379 | $ 39,682 | $ 60,762 | $ 40,338 |
| **2023** | $ 37,125 | $ 41,325 | $ 59,924 | $ 42,816 | $ 44,036 | $ 39,578 | $ 45,339 | $ 40,816 | $ 41,980 | $ 43,368 | $ 44,415 | $ 61,679 | $ 45,200 |
| **2024** | $ 45,450 | $ 46,953 | $ 43,891 | $ 50,883 | $ 43,857 | $ 41,296 | $ 38,216 | $ 41,142 | $ 41,107 | $ 45,324 | $ 46,573 | $ 52,860 | $ 44,796 |
| **2025** | $ 55,892 | $ 48,285 | $ 51,064 | $ 46,289 | $ 48,993 | $ 46,715 | $ 47,192 | $ 43,869 | $ 53,363 | $ 77,341 | $ 49,700 | $ 75,419 | $ 53,677 |
| **2026** | $ 45,472 | $ 55,318 | $ 54,268 | $ 51,812 | $ 58,613 | $ 47,999 | $ 47,260 | $ 62,126 | | | | | $ 52,858 |
| **w=# of weeks** | '23=5w | | '24, '25, **26** = 5w | '23=5w | '22, **26** = 5w | '24, '25 = 5w | '23 = 5w | '25, **26** = 5w | 24 = 5w | '23 = 5w | '25, **26** = 5w | '24= 5w | |