

May 2026 Board Highlights

Leadership and Staff Updates

- Pastor Daniel Burbage reported strong momentum in worship and high pastoral care needs due to illness and life challenges among members.
- Executive Minister Monica Barricks highlighted ministry teams taking initiative, including the SERVE Team's community impact efforts at MC Riley as well as facility team maintenance progress.
- Treasurer: April giving was above the norm and YTD general giving is tracking slightly ahead of quarterly patterns. Expenses were below budget partially due to the delayed Admin employee start. There is a deficit variance as expected based on patterns over the past two years. A member of the finance team was out of town for a family emergency, so a final report was not yet prepared.

Renovation and Facilities

- Initial renovation bids for the worship space were higher than expected; the board is gathering multiple bids and considering a "do-not-exceed" budget.
- Discussions included phased construction plans and the need to complete renovations before the busy fall holiday season.

Children & Youth Ministry

- Progress on the new unit #101 children and youth space was reported, with plans to begin moving in and a dedication ceremony forthcoming.
- Communication with the Bright Minds tenant was noted, with a need for the board to set a move-out-by date for unit 104.

Security and Governance

- Security team is beginning to meet and will have recommendations later
- The board began drafting roles and responsibilities for the board itself and the staff to clarify expectations and accountability. Team roles & responsibilities will be created as well in coordination with the teams themselves.

Fundraising and Budget Philosophy

- The board discussed budgeting for worship-related events (such as Christmas Eve Under the Stars) versus treating them as net fundraisers, with some decisions deferred for future meetings. The Town of Bluffton has been granting funds for Christmas Eve, but the park use requires a new fee beginning this year. Fundraising will continue for the SERVE Team's events, usually for the benefit of the Blessings Ministry.