



Faith-Based Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes of December 2, 2025

Present were committee members Dan Mahon, James Lafolette, Joe Sharon, and Terry Cummings. Rafael Vargas was excused. Planning Assistant Heather La Beau and Youth Advisor Kaytlynn Leos were in attendance. Council Representatives Allen Hayward and Jackie Linton were absent. Terry opened the meeting in prayer at 4:08pm.

Minutes

James moved and Terry seconded to approve October 7, 2025, minutes. Motion carried unanimously with Dan, James, Joe, and Terry all voting in favor.

Jame moved and Terry seconded to approve the November 4, 2025, minutes as corrected. Motion carried unanimously with Dan, James, Joe, and Terry all voting in favor.

Stepping Stones Alliance (SSA) Updates: SSA Executive Director Jesalyn Cole delivered an update on Stepping Stones to include:

- Reverse Advent Calendar for December donations
- Giving Tuesday campaign featuring Giving Thanks for partnerships, staff, volunteers post on social media
- 2 individual sleeping units (Conestoga Huts) were constructed and placed in use for a total of 23 units serving 25 members
- Sleep Center hosted 18 the previous evening; capacity is 40
- Utilities (well and septic) are at capacity
- A videographer is developing a virtual tour of the facility
- Planning beginning for next year's Gala on Oct 10, 2026
- Consult Stepping Stones website for current pick up/drop off location for sleep center guests
- Hermiston Christian School brought 25 students and 4 teachers for a tour of the facility

First Responder Updates

Terry shared how he is grateful for new chaplain Mario Peralta Santana's language skills and ability to help during the daytime hours. Mario has received training and certification for the role. Terry gave information regarding the forming of a 501(3)(C) organization to determine how to fund the chaplain position moving forward. He hopes to present at churches to seek donations both funded and/or as part of special offerings. Prayer support is always welcome, too.

Christmas Express

The 57th annual Christmas Express is in full gear. The box build and gift wrapping will be December 16th at 5:30 at HCC. They are in need of additional toys; Dan stated he would mention it at the Pastor's breakfast. Public and private schools are among those donating food to the program each year. Some schools also give monetary donations.

Food Insecurity Updates



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Dan shared he is grateful for the ten student members of Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), including Youth Advisor Kaytlynn, whom repackaged food at Oasis Vineyard Church for Agape House. They were able to repack 750 pounds of food in one hour. They will return next week with a goal of repackaging 1000 pounds of food.

Dan provided information regarding food insecurities to the city council at a recent meeting. Joe shared the LDS Church gave a substantial donation to both Agape House and Boardman Food Bank.

The high school clubs hold food and toy drives with incentives to increase donations. Joe would like the FCCLA members to coordinate with Just Serve in their work.

School Adoption Updates

James shared pictures of pretzel stick gifts bags that were recently provided by First Christian Church to staff at Desert View Elementary. This is the second outreach of the year.

Next Meeting

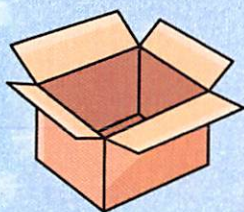
The next meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2026, at 4pm at Stepping Stones Alliance Navigation Center located at 81535 Lind Rd.

Joe informed the group the LDS Church has a reverse vending machine located at the Tri-Cities Queensgate Cinema through Dec 21. Reverse vending machines are for purchasing various items for others around the world. The church has a total of 150 machines around the United States for the Christmas season. Joe closed the meeting in prayer at 5:00pm.

REVERSE Advent Calendar

Add one item each day throughout the month of December. Drop off your completed donation boxes to Stepping Stones Alliance! Our office is open for donations any day of the week between 8am-6pm at 81535 Lind Road, Hermiston.

Thank you!



****Items we cannot accept:**
homemade items, alcoholic beverages, rusty or damaged cans, expired, open, or unlabeled items.



Stepping Stones
ALLIANCE

www.Stepping-Stones-Alliance.org
(541) 561-3680





JOIN US FOR A FESTIVE AFTERNOON!

Christmas MUSIC at our CHURCH

A CELEBRATION OF
JOY, HOPE, AND TRADITION

Experience the warmth and wonder of the Christmas season through timeless music and heartfelt singing. Bring your family and friends for an uplifting afternoon of carols, choir performances, and joyful fellowship.

Sunday, December 14, 2025

2:00 pm

Umatilla Community Presbyterian Church
4 Martin Drive (South Hill), Umatilla, Oregon

All ages are welcome!

Light refreshments will be served after the program.
Come sing, celebrate, and share the joy of Christmas with us!

For more information, contact
Patti at (541) 413-0713
or Carolyn at (541) 571-7770

