

Montrose United Methodist Church
Church Council Agenda
April 28, 2025 at 5:30
In Person and Via Zoom

[Attendance Sheet](#)

Those in attendance not on Attendance Sheet

Shane Forrest, in person

Megan Farley, Zoom

Rev Kevin opened the meeting with a prayer.

Roll was taken of those attending via Zoom.

Rev Kevin reviewed his suggested guidelines for the meeting as well as the procedural guidelines of the meeting.

- Respect one another
- Agree to disagree
- Address the topic, not the person
- Follow the 3x3 Rule
 - Allow either 3 other people besides yourself or 3 minutes to pass before you speak again

Rev Kevin made a motion to pause the sheltering ministry with the unhoused. The motion was seconded. Discussion followed. Clarification was provided that this will mean removing all who are sheltering on the property. Pause is defined as removing the unhoused from the property during the warmer months. Rev Kevin provided some background information about how this motion came to be which included information about the legal decisions and the fire marshall inspection. The pause is coming from the circumstance that exists and the disagreement around the circumstance that exists inside of our church. The city has failed to demonstrate that we are in violation of city codes. There is no place in Montrose County where it is legal for the unhoused.

The planning has to include that a number of unhoused people will continue to be around the church regardless of whether they are allowed to stay on the property or not.

The Book of Discipline gives Church Council members the right to voice and vote. Church Members have a voice. Nonmembers may observe. A consensus was taken to allow nonmembers present to have a voice to allow a member of the Solutions for the Unhoused and the Lighthouse provide input.

Dale Crabtree proposed to amend the motion to state that the pause will start May 31 and help will be provided to the people moving. The vote was favorable to amend the motion.

A motion was made to pause sheltering the unhoused on the property by May 31 with assistance. The motion was seconded. Discussion followed. The motion carried. Connie offered that the church has received donations from around the country. Kevin suggested that members of Church Council meet with the unhoused and the committee members who have been working on the ministry tomorrow evening to discuss with the unhoused the deadline to leave the property and assess their needs in order to relocate. Three council members will join tomorrow evening in visiting with them. A suggestion was made on how to organize tomorrow's meeting.

What does this pause mean? How will it happen? Volunteers are needed to help. To start moving people will involve moving all their belongings in the quad as well as in the Cafe.

It was suggested that Church Council members reach out to the church members who are stepping away from the church.

Rev Kevin tabled his motion to reopen the sheltering ministry when dangerous winter temperatures return.

Jim offered the closing prayer.

The next meeting to address the relocation of the unhoused will be held Monday, May 5, 2025 at 5:30p.