

**SONRISE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
STATED SESSION MEETING MINUTES**

The Stated Meeting of the Session of SonRise Christian Fellowship was called to order Tuesday, June 24, 2025, at 6:30PM.

PRAYER

ROLL CALL: Jerome Marroquin

CLASS OF 2025

Cory Bitting (P)

CLASS OF 2026

Gayle Kott (P)

Bob Mann (A)

Cathy Smelser (P)

Lougene Williams (P)

CLASS OF 2027

Martha Garcia (P)

Kirk Sandvig (P)

Also Present: Banning Cantarini, Family Pastor, Beth Deutsch, Clerk of Session and Chair Search Committee, Lisa Stowers, Deacon Moderator.

MSC Privileges of the floor: Banning Cantarini, Beth Deutsch, Lisa Stowers

Meeting Minutes of 5_27_2025 were approved 5-30-25

MSC Approval of Agenda:

Committee/Team Minutes Received: Finance, Preschool Board

CLERK'S REPORT:

Baptisms: Danette Daley June 22, 2025

CONSENT DOCKET:

	May 2025	May 2024
Gifts	\$ 40,560	\$ 82,708
<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>\$ 54,918</u>	<u>\$ 49,957</u>
Net Operating Income/(Loss)	-\$14,358)	\$ 32,751

DEACON REPORT

The Deacons are grateful that someone has agreed to act as assistant moderator, provided the work is completed to form a memorials subcommittee with a memorials chair who is other than the Deacon Moderator. Deacons will not meet in July.

PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

This is transcript of the report provided by Mike Lee to the congregation on June 22nd.

-- Opening prayer

-- Today I will provide more details about the methodical and careful process we are working through to identify a senior pastor candidate to recommend to the Elders, and ultimately for a vote by members.

-- We have received more than 100 applications from across the nation and even from around the world.

-- We narrowed the list down to 10 that best fit the qualifications that you all helped inform through surveys that you completed at the start of the process.

- Over the past two weeks, we have interviewed 6 candidates and we plan to interview 2 more next week.
- That will bring us to the end of the first round of interviews.
- First round interviews are designed to help us get to know the candidates, understand their motivations for ministry and understand their approach to ministry. They also were given the opportunity to ask us questions to learn about the church and our selection process.
- We individually evaluated the answer to each question and provided an overall assessment of whether the candidates should move on in the process.
- Once we complete the first round of interviews, we will assess our individual reviews as a group and make decisions about which candidates will move to the second round.
- As part of the vetting process, we are looking at sermons and social media accounts for candidates that are likely to move on based on the first interviews.
- Second round interviews are designed to probe more deeply into each candidate's theology, experience and vision.
- While we don't have a set number for the second round of interviews, we expect to roughly cut the field in half.
- After the second round of interviews, we will make a decision about how to move forward. It's possible that we will identify 1-2 candidates that we strongly believe can fill the role of senior pastor and we would then schedule a final round of in-person interviews. It's also possible that we will lack that conviction and will need to reopen the application process.
- Either way, we will provide an update in July.
- So, that's where we are at in the process, but I also want to let you know a little bit about how we are working as a team.
- It's clear to me that the Elders choose wisely with the selection committee. We have a diverse set of perspectives, values and experiences that generate significant discussion and in some cases disagreements that we need to work through.
- All of that is healthy and normal -- and I hope it provides some assurance that this group is both working hard and taking this task very seriously. Wherever we end up, I can assure you that this is not a rubber stamp process... and it is a process that is working.
- Of course, we all wish the process were faster and more certain, but we are trusting in the slow work of God to guide us -- and that's not something we can control.
- On a personal level, it's been rewarding to get to know my teammates better and understand their frameworks as we work toward the finish line.
- As a team, we remain patiently united. We are all giving up at least one evening every week and sometimes more to ensure the integrity and efficiency of our efforts.
- And it's fair to say that we are really excited to see the results of our efforts paying off as we meet candidates and narrow our focus.

It was an oversight that Mike did not mention that the congregation will only hear from and vote on one candidate. That will be emphasized during the July update.

COMMITTEES:

Children's Ministry – VBS has a very strong group of volunteers who were trained on Sunday. Registration on the new website has been problematic and most of the registrants have not paid. This will be a challenge on the 1st day. Preschool is full, but there will be room for new grade school age kids to register, including walk-up registrations on the 1st day.

Hospitality Committee – Discussed the idea of bringing all Hospitality related events under one umbrella. Beth will work with Banning to formulate a plan and present it to Session.

PASTORS REPORT

New member's class is July 12th 9AM – noon. Lunch is provided and Elders are asked to come at 11:30 to interview new members. July 6th is the All-Church Picnic with games for the kids. VBS is July 7th – 11th. Pastor Jerome begins a two-week vacation on July 20th. Pastor Banning and Pastor Greg will preach. July 24th is the first of 4 SonRise Socials, the themes of which are: Jeopardy, The Price is Right, Bingo, and Family Feud.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHURCH

Discussed progress on getting a new sign out front. The proposal is to remove all the current structures around the sign frame -- the wooden and brick structures -- leaving only the metal frame and stand. That will be refurbished with a printed Aluminum sign to be designed for inside the frame. The inside sign will sun fade within 5 – 10 years, but a new sign can be printed when necessary and easily fitted into the frame structure. The frame will be enhanced by building a rock wall underneath it and landscaping around the sign. The rock wall will have two pins inserted from which we can hang a semi-permanent sign regarding service hours. Discussed the need for a separate structure that can be used for seasonal banners. Pastor Banning has agreed to run point on the project with the DOfC input for design features.

Session will not meet in July.

Respectfully Submitted, Beth Deutsch, Clerk of Session

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING OF SESSION AUGUST 26, 2025 AT 6:30 PM