



Where Life is Sweet

FAITH-BASED ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2nd Floor Large Conference Room, City Hall, 180 NE 2nd
Street

September 01, 2026 at 4:00 PM

AGENDA

1. **WELCOME / INVOCATION**
2. **MINUTES**
 - A. Minutes of the August 4, 2026 regular meeting
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
4. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. 9/11 - 25th Year Remembrance
 - B. Pet Blessing Event
5. **CHECK-INS / UPDATES / REPORTS**
 - A. Stepping Stones
 - B. School Adoption:
 - School District Support
 - Adoption & School Supplies
 - Guest Speakers
 - C. Food Insecurities
6. **OTHER**
7. **NEXT MEETING**
 - A. Next Meeting Date is October 6, 2026
8. **BENEDICTION**

**** AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT NOTICE****

Please contact Hermiston City Hall, 180 NE 2nd Street, Hermiston, OR 97838 (Phone No. 541-567-5521) at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting time if you need an accommodation. TTY and TDD users please call Oregon Telecommunications Relay Service at 1-800-735-2900 or 711.



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Faith-Based Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes of August 4, 2026

Present were committee members Dan Mahon, James Lafolette, and Rafael Vargas. Chaplain Terry Cummings and Joe Sharon were absent. Planning Assistant Heather La Beau and Records Retention Clerk Dawne Shaw were in attendance. Council Representatives Allen Hayward and Jackie Linton were not in attendance. No Youth Advisors attended the meeting. James opened the meeting in prayer at 4:06pm.

Minutes

Rafael moved and James seconded to approve the June 2, 2026, minutes. Motion carried unanimously with Dan, James, and Rafael all voting in favor.

Public Comment

None given.

School Adoption Updates

Lisa gave an update on First Christian Church's adoption of Desert View Elementary School and passed out a sheet outlining the different and creative ways they are supporting teachers and students. Dan also discussed the upcoming school year and the need for school supplies and shared a list of needed supplies.

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

- Propane grill has been installed; there will be rules and training for usage
- Indoor kitchen suppression system has been installed & the Fire Chief is coming next week to sign off on it; then the stove/range can be installed
- The gate is now motorized; Gordon's Electric was highly recommended due to their expertise and willingness to go above & beyond
- Marlette Clayton homes has finished & delivered the ADA individual shelter unit & the concrete will be poured next week; a regular sized unit will be ready next week, to replace an original unit; the units will be replaced as needed
- Sleep Center numbers are staying high at 18-20 guests a night, which is higher than last summer
- Their biggest need is for prepared/freezer meals

Jesalyn stated they have gone on multiple tours. They went to both youth programs in Kennewick, and she noted it is a much bigger step, and they are putting the brakes on it for now. They also visited My Father's House in Gresham and also visited the facility in Pendelton. She noted they are still in talks with developers to develop their next acre of land. Jesalyn also noted the upcoming Gala and the National Day of Service.

Food Insecurity Updates

Dan gave an update on the various meals served around the city and noted the Friday lunch at the Catholic church is very busy every week, serving 80-100 every week. He noted the requirement for anyone working in the kitchens to have a food handlers license and the kitchen needs to be certified. Rafael stated they are struggling to find enough volunteers for the Friday meals. He noted they are no longer serving separate



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meals for Hispanic and English – they have combined the meals. Dan stated that Oasis church got a grant to help upgrade their kitchen so they can become compliant and serve meals; work will begin next week. He noted their vegetable distribution on Thursdays is continuing and they average 40 families/150 people each week. Dan stated that the FCCLA group came out and assisted with the vegetable distribution. James gave an update on the two trailers for possible mobile food preparation and distribution. After further discussion it was stated they will move forward with discussions on the trailers after the fair.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for September 1, 2026, at 4:00pm at City Hall.

There was no further business, and Rafael closed the meeting in prayer at 5:01pm.

DRAFT

ADOPT A SCHOOL PROGRAM FOR DESERT VIEW ELEMENTARY BY FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

WHY: it gives churches an opportunity to show teachers/staff in our area how much we appreciate them for the education they are providing our young children. Community outreach is important for our congregation to look beyond the walls of our church; and think outside the box of charities in the area.

RESULTS: We have been blessed to have a few teachers/staff come and visit FCC. I would like to think these encounters may have been the result of our presence through these appreciation contacts. However, we also have a teacher on staff that is a member of our congregation and she always invites people looking for a place to worship.

**WEEK OF SUPERBOWL
2026**



**LAST WEEK OF
SCHOOL 2026**



START OF SCHOOL 2026-27



OTHER PROJECT EXAMPLES:

We have been blessed in the past to receive some products from Walmart {overstock/out of season| Sometimes that you to have a place to store these items until they can be used. i.e. Stocking cap give away. Easter eggs filled with candy. The biggest draw back from Walmart products is they usually call the same day they want the items picked up. Often there is a pallet involved so a truck must be secured and sometimes there can be a little wait for clearance to get into the distribution center.

One time we bought bottled water and placed our own label over the existing one with a word of encouragement. We contacted them ahead and they secured an ice chest so the water would stay cold.

Several years ago we provide back packs filled with school supplies requested by the school.

In years past we have asked for home made goodies from the congregation and declared the day “Sweet Treat Day” for teachers in their lounge area.

If you talk to office staff you can usually get an idea of what is needed. They shared with us that during the start of the school year some of the younger children can have “accidents” and a change of underwear pants and even socks are needed. And through out the school year often teachers see a need to offer clothes for all ages. This was something we had never considered as a need.

You do have to be creative. Usually if I can find 50 of the same or similar items I will figure out a way to incorporate it into a school appreciation project. If you have a yard sale fanatic {like me} in your congregation you can find crafts and some brand new items to use.

CONSIDER THIS: To avoid being in the way, several people should be involved in the delivery of items in the morning to assure a fast and smooth delivery.

Item	Qu per Child Grades	
#2 Ticonderoga pencils	24	K-5
Crayola crayons 24 count	2	K-5
Crayola colored pencils 12 cc	1	K-5
Glue sticks	6	K-5
Kleenex box	1	K-5
Pink Pearl Erasers	2	K-5
8x5 plastic pencil box	1	K-5
Lunch Box	1	K-5
Spiral Notebooks wide ruled	3	2
Spiral Notebooks college rule	3	3-5