

ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
COUNCIL MINUTES FROM MEETING OF
Tuesday, December 9, 2025

Council Members Present: Pam Lange, Jane Dykowski, Michael Isaacs, Toni Hill, Wendy Warner, Dan Case, Tim Ruffner, Jeannette Wackro, and Rev. Linda Anderson.

Excused: Mark Ennis, and Conrad Heidt

Guests: There were no Council Guests

Meeting was called to order by President, Tim Ruffner, at 6:34 p.m. followed by opening prayer led by Tim Ruffner.

Approval of the Minutes: Motion by Toni Hill, seconded by Jeannette Wackro, to approve the November 11, 2025 Council minutes. Motion carried.

Agenda Additions/Deletions: Add to New Business: 7. Financial Campaign in January, 2026.

REPORTS AND UPDATES

Treasurer's Report: Written report. Dan Case expanded on his written report with the information that again our income is not covering our expenses—income \$9934 vs. expenses \$14,715. Through November, we are c. \$21,000 expenses greater than income for the year. The office account is somewhat over because of a 2024 bill paid in 2025. He anticipates the General Fund will have an approximate balance of \$10,000 at year's end. Once again, Rev. Anderson noted that the congregation should be apprised of our money situation. She recommended just plain asking for money. There followed a discussion of how we could reward staff for their dedication, time, and talent. Dan Case is going to review resources to see if we could do that. Motion by Wendy Warner, seconded by Michael Isaacs, to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Ministry Department: Rev. Anderson gave an oral report. She reported that there were 6 to 12 people who attended Bible Study. There followed a discussion about our not knowing the names of congregation members. We fail to reach out to learn to know people. When we had a viable pictorial directory, that was a good place to put names with faces. Participation in events is a good way to become acquainted with people.

Trustees/Building and Grounds: Michael Isaacs thanked Dan Case for his preparing and presenting the Active Shooter Training program. The new grate in the West Drive has been installed. (Norm from the hardware store did custom work to make it.) The steeple work will be completed in the spring due to weather conditions. The heat register in the West Room has been fixed; but, a small leak still needs attention. Tim Ruffner questioned an issue with the organ. It has been addressed. Michael Isaacs reported that there are new microphones in the sanctuary.

Deacons: Jeannette Wackro reported that 302 attended in November. Motion by Dan Case, seconded by Wendy Warner, to appoint Harold Fick auxiliary deacon. Motion carried. Michael Isaacs reported that Harold Fick generously shifted his Thanksgiving plans to accommodate their use of the West Room.

Elders: Pam Lange reported that 29 participated in communion in November.

Search Team Update: Michael Isaacs reported that the candidate had a question regarding status on the Council. The minister is an ex-officio member, attends, has input, but cannot vote. Other issues dealt with particular weeks off and housing. It was the consensus (not a motion) that we want a response 7 days from the letter and wanted to work toward a January 18, 2026 candidate weekend.

OLD BUSINESS

1. 2026 Budget Approval: Dan Case had prepared two scenarios of the budget—with and without an employee raise. Motion by Dan Case, seconded by Toni Hill, to approve the 2026 Budget with raises. Motion carried. (Adjustments could be made during the year relative to finances.)
2. Council Slate: Possible open positions are President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Elder, Trustee, and Deacons. The terms of these positions vary because of vacancies and those serving the 3rd three-year commitment on a year to year basis.
3. By-law Change Review: Each council member had a copy of the proposed by-law changes prepared by Dan Case, Michael Isaacs, Tim Ruffner, and Wendy Warner. Basically, the changes are to have council terms for 2 years rather than 3 years. If these are passed at the Semi-annual meeting, those on 3-year terms will become 2-year terms.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approve Scheduled Holidays for 2026: Motion by Dan Case, seconded by Michael Isaacs, to approve the 2026 Holiday Schedule. Motion carried.
2. Approve 2026 Event Calendar: The cabinet had previously approved the event calendar. Changes will be made through the year and sent to Cindy Romas when the need arises. Motion by Dan Case, seconded by Jeannette Wackro, to approve the 2026 Event Calendar. Motion carried.
3. Approve 2026 Guest Schedule: Motion by Wendy Warner, seconded by Toni Hill, to approve the 2026 Guest Schedule. Motion carried.
4. President's Letter: At the meeting date, Tim Ruffner did not have a president's letter prepared. He shall prepare two letters ready for mailing. They are both to include the necessity for the prayerful consideration of council membership and with or without announcement of a candidate weekend. That would depend on whether the candidate has committed.
5. Annual Meeting Agenda: The proposed agenda for the annual meeting was reviewed. It was determined to discuss the by-law changes prior to voting on council candidates.
6. Christmas Eve Service – Council responsibilities: There was discussion about passing the light and a review of how it is done and awareness of the fire hazard. All council members present indicated they would be in attendance and available to serve as necessary.
7. Financial campaign in January: It was the consensus that a financial campaign be initiated in January. Dan Case agreed to gather a committee to plan such an event.

ROUNDTABLE

A conversation was initiated regarding the disruption in holiday decorating. It appears that one involved in decorating the Fellowship Hall did not involve the Girl Scouts as was planned. Then the sanctuary was completed by the choir so the Scouts had little or no input. When a group is assigned decorating a particular area, how it is done is their choice whether it is liked or not. Also, there was confusion over whose decorations were where that caused undesirable feelings.

ROUNDTABLE (Continued)

Dan Case also reported that there would be a special Fish Dinner meeting on December 18. This is early as the price of fish has risen and leadership needed to be determined.

To avoid issues for events in another year, it was recommended that a follow-up report be made after each event.

Motion by Wendy Warner, seconded by Dan Case, to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m. followed by the Lord's Prayer recited in unison.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane L. Dykowski
Recording Secretary.