

ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
COUNCIL MINUTES FROM MEETING OF
Tuesday, February 10, 2026

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

Excused: Conrad Heidt

Guests: Church Building and Grounds/ Securities Ministries: Council Trustees, Michael Isaacs; Building & Grounds Chair, Gary Staffeld; Sexton/Groundskeeper, Harold Fick; Snow Removal, Eric Poet; Men's Fellowship Ministry, President, Ed Brainard; Safety and Security Chair, Dan Case.

Meeting was called to order by President, Tim Ruffner, at 6:31 p.m. followed by opening prayer led by Tim Ruffner.

Because of illness, Gary Staffeld could not attend. Michael Isaacs and Toni Hill reported that since the Annual Meeting report, there was not much activity. However, the register leak in the West Room still needs a remedy. Our lighted sign needs a new control board at a cost of approximately \$3000. The team is investigating remedies. Facilities Improvement has the financing for this.

Dan Case reported for Safety and Security. There is now a Mace container at the front entrance. All doors will have cameras that can be monitored from the usher's room. The Memorial Committee will fund monitoring systems. The Safety Ministry will repeat the active shooter training if there is interest. For panhandlers, indicating that the police are coming is helpful. Event safety is planned for the Wild Game dinner and All Daughters Banquet in May.

In the absence of Ed Brainard, Dan Case reported for Men's Fellowship. For the upcoming Wild Game Dinner the set up will be done on Friday.

Harold Fick gave an extensive rundown of our grounds. He reported on a maple tree that needs some fertilizer spikes, his early trips to Block's to secure annuals, how memorial stones can be placed under trees, etc. He requested that the mowers be serviced in March to be ready for the summer. As sexton, he has not had much activity as there were not many events on the calendar. Harold was thanked for his many services and excused.

Eric Poet for Snow Removal did not attend.

Approval of the Minutes: Motion by Mark Ennis, seconded by Michael Isaacs, to approve the January 6, 2026 Council minutes. Motion carried.

Agenda Additions/Deletions: Add to New Business: 6. Approve Pastor's Housing Allowance

REPORTS AND UPDATES

Treasurer's Report: Written report. Dan Case expanded on his report that current income and expenses were approximately \$8100 short over the year in 2025. January 2026 is short approximately \$5300. At this rate, our operating excess will be depleted by April or May. There was a lengthy discussion about benevolence money available to needy in an emergency. Monies have been given out when people were being evicted. Generally we do not give out cash, but use funded cards when necessary. After the discussion, there was a motion by Toni Hill, seconded by Wendy Warner, to have a petty cash fund of \$400 available. Motion carried. Previous ministers have contributed to the fund. Motion by Michael Isaacs, seconded by Toni Hill, to approve the Treasurer's report.

Ministry Department: No written report. Rev. Anderson reported that Bible Study had 8 in attendance—usually there are 10 – 12. She feels things were going well. She has visited Conrad Heidt, council trustee, who is at home under hospice care.

Trustees/Building and Grounds: Their report was heard along with other Council guests.

Deacons: Having no deacon, Dan Case reported that attendance for January was 220 in house and 90 on Facebook. On the candidate Sunday, in house was 72 and 38 on Facebook. That is almost double the usual attendance.

Elders: Sixty participated in communion in February. Mark Ennis asked about the purpose of collecting this data. It is used for membership activity and reflects our progress or lack thereof. Kathy Williams is able to take communion to the shut ins.

Search Team Update: Not yet having an acceptance from Rev. Lesa Branham, Tim Ruffner reported that John Dykowski has been in contact.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Rev. Branham Candidate Weekend Follow Up: Dan case and others were in agreement that we did everything we could to make the weekend as successful as it was. The 99.7% “yes” vote was overwhelming. In spite of the weather, many came and stayed for the Meet and Greet. Rev. Branham diligently addressed everyone and took time to answer questions and show interest in them and our church. Even though many decided to vote on Saturday, they attended the worship service on Sunday and again gathered in the West Room with the candidate to celebrate. The Facebook comments on the service were very complimentary.
2. Council Dinner: The dinner is tabled until we have a response from Rev. Branham.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Establish time for Council Meetings for 2026: Motion by Dan Case, seconded by Michael Isaacs, to approve 7:00 p.m. as the council meeting time. Motion carried.
2. Approve Asset Sustainment money move: Motion by Dan Case, seconded by Wendy Warner, to move the annual earnings (\$11, 182.81) from the Endowment Fund to the Capital Appreciation Fund. Motion carried.
3. Approve 2026 Employee Handbook: Motion by Dan Case, seconded by Toni Hill, to approve the 2026 Employee Handbook. Motion carried. (The only change is in the holidays.)
4. 2026 Stewardship Commitment: Dan Case reviewed the results of the commitment card request. As usual, there were few returned. Discussion of a stewardship campaign was tabled to the March meeting.
5. Council Packet handout: The packet for the council contains all items except the Pew Communion dates. There followed a discussion about developing a rapid contact system to contact the congregation efficiently and quickly. Michael Isaacs will research such a system.
6. Approve Pastor’s Housing Allowance: Motion by Dan Case, seconded by Toni Hill, to approve Rev. Anderson’s 2025 housing allowance of \$21,000. Motion carried.

ROUNDTABLE

Jane Dykowski raised the question of how someone reinstates their membership. (They had previously been a member here.) After discussion, such persons can request a transfer from a former church. If they have no church affiliation, a written request to the church could be used to request reinstatement. Rev. Anderson said she would talk with the interested person.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m. followed by the Lord's Prayer recited in unison.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane L. Dykowski
Recording Secretary.