

ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
COUNCIL MINUTES FROM MEETING OF
Tuesday, January 6, 2026

Council Members Present: Pam Lange, Jane Dykowski, Michael Isaacs, Wendy Warner, Dan Case, Tim Ruffner, Jeannette Wackro, and Mark Ennis.

Excused: Toni Hill and Conrad Heidt

Guests: Search Team: The agenda for this meeting represents a joint meeting with the Search Team for the purpose of planning the Candidate Weekend for Rev. Lesa Branham. Following that part of the agenda, the Team will be excused and Council will hold the regular meeting for January.

Guests from the Search Team are: Debbie Case, John Dykowski, Kaitlyn Isaacs, Diane Poet in addition to team members serving on council (Tim Ruffner and Pam Lange).

Meeting was called to order by President, Tim Ruffner, at 6:30 p.m. followed by opening prayer led by John Dykowski.

At this point in the meeting, the President moved to New Business to plan the candidate weekend. Approximately one hour later, after detailed discussion, a plan was developed for the candidate weekend. (Early the following morning, everyone received a detailed itinerary, duties, and responsibilities for the weekend via an email from Tim Ruffner. There is no need for the plan to be included in these minutes. A copy is available from the secretary.

As the Search Team members (John Dykowski, Diane Poet, Debbie Case and Kaitlyn Isaacs were excused) there was a short recess. The regular council meeting resumed at 7:37 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes: Motion by Dan Case, seconded by Jeannette Wackro, to approve the December 9, 2025 Council minutes. Motion carried.

Agenda Additions/Deletions: There were none.

REPORTS AND UPDATES

Treasurer's Report: No written report. Because of the early meeting date, a written Treasurer's report was unavailable. Dan Case, however, reported that December's income was about \$28,000. This was adequate to cover all but approximately \$8,000 of expenses for the year. There followed a discussion of possible financial questions that may arise at the annual meeting.

Ministry Department: No report. Rev. Anderson was not in attendance.

Trustees/Building and Grounds: Michael Isaacs reported that the West Room radiator leak was "almost" fixed. A small leak remains. The vibration in the organ blower has been remedied. Gary Staffeld and Norm (from the hardware) have created a grate for the West Drive. Others may be necessary for the other drains.

Deacons: Jeannette Wackro reported that 298 physically attended in December. Including Facebook, attendance was 383.

Elders: Pam Lange reported that 67 participated in communion on Christmas Eve and 37 participated on the first Sunday in January, 2026.

Search Team Update: The planning of the Candidate Weekend occurred earlier in the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Council Slate: No new candidates have been identified for council positions. The procedure at the annual meeting will be to open nominations for each position individually. If there are no nominations, the present person serving may indicate they are willing to serve again. This process will continue for all positions.

Because of other activities, Mark Ennis must miss some communion dates. He will be Senior Elder. He, Wendy Warner, and Pam Lange will work out the obligations of the elders.

Dan Case brought to our attention that when an elder is unavailable to serve, a current council member should be the first to be asked to substitute, followed by auxiliary elders. Motion by Mark Ennis, seconded by Dan Case, to appoint Sue Mrowka an auxiliary elder. Motion carried. It was also noted that Fred Miller may be interested in being an auxiliary trustee.

2. Agenda for Annual Meeting: Motion by Dan Case, seconded by Michael Isaacs, to approve the annual meeting agenda. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Rev. Branham Weekend: Covered earlier in the joint meeting.
2. Parliamentarian for Annual Meeting: Dan Case will serve as parliamentarian for the annual meeting.
3. Council Dinner: Tim Ruffner suggested that a plan for a council dinner be postponed until after the Candidate Weekend as we may have a settled pastor at that time.

ROUNDTABLE

Wendy Warner related that Sue Mrowka would like to re-arrange the Parlor closet containing worship accessories. There was no objection.

A discussion of the definition of ex-officio followed. It was determined that an ex-officio member of a group does have voting privileges. In order to clarify our by-laws, there was a motion by Jeannette Wackro, seconded by Pam Lange, to make such clarification in the by-law changes to be presented at the annual meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by Wendy Warner, seconded by Pam Lange, to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m. followed by the Lord's Prayer recited in unison.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane L. Dykowski
Recording Secretary.

