

ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
COUNCIL MINUTES FROM MEETING OF
Tuesday, April 14, 2026

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

Guests: Girl Scout Troop Leader, Michele Matney, was unable to attend.

Meeting was called to order by President, Tim Ruffner, at 7:00 p.m. followed by opening prayer led by Tim Ruffner.

Approval of the Minutes: Motion by Dan Case, seconded by Mark Ennis, to approve the March 10, 2026 Council minutes. Motion carried.

Agenda Additions/Deletions: Add to New Business: 4. Utilization of Risers

REPORTS AND UPDATES

Treasurer's Report: Written report. Dan Case expanded on his report. In March our income exceeded our expenses by a little over \$2,000. With the arrival of the senior pastor, our monthly income will need to increase substantially. A stewardship campaign should be initiated in the next couple of months. There was a discussion of QCDs (Qualified Charitable Distributions). A donation can be made directly from one's IRS to the church. (There are age requirements.) This amount is then not taxed on an individual's federal and state tax returns. Motion by Toni Hill, seconded by Michael Isaacs, to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion Carried.

Ministry Department: No report. April 12 was Rev. Anderson's last day of employment. She met with the Bible Study Group on April 14 and was to have the pastor's office vacated by April 15, 2026.

Trustees/Building and Grounds: Michael Isaacs reported that the water leak in the West Room is remedied. The heating and cooling maintenance has been completed. The painting is completed on the steeple. It is done! The West Lobby door lock has been fixed. There remains upcoming fixes and cleaning in the parsonage to be completed before Rev. Branham arrives. May 18, 2026 is a scheduled deep cleaning for the church kitchen. New grates have been made for the West drive. They will rust, but are more substantial than those that were broken. There was some discussion about quotes to put cupboards in the parsonage.

Deacons: Having no deacon, Dan Case reported that attendance in March was 283. Easter Sunday had 109 in attendance which was the same as last year. It was suggested that the Deacons use a check off sheet to be sure all items are completed.

Elders: Mark Ennis thanked Pam Lange for her leadership when he was unable to be here. Pam Lange reported that 25 communed on Maundy Thursday which included our new confirmands. On Easter Sunday 100 people participated in communion. It was noted that Harold Fick enjoys being an auxiliary deacon and does an admirable job.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Rev. Branham Welcome and Start Date: The latest conversations with Rev. Branham's arrival is dependent on the movers. The movers may not be able to deliver items prior to the current planned start date. This is going to be worked out and we may have to move the start date to May. The determined move date will determine our actions. There followed a discussion about tamping down the rumors should we have to delay a start date. Tim Ruffner will make an appropriate announcement on Sunday. Dan Case reported that he is putting together a welcome packet including keys, computer availability, phones, email address, church, and leadership information. Other items mentioned were: business cards, altar flowers, food on moving day, and call campaign. Jane Dykowski volunteered to head the call campaign as we did for candidate weekend. Dan case will provide a new list. Volunteers are welcome to make calls. There followed a discussion about our focus must now be on renewal, revival, harmony, and looking at our whole church situation with a new shepherd.
2. Parsonage Cleanup/Repairs: Mostly clean up and some repairs are planned now. A metal security door would cost \$2,000 to install. This is under consideration.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of Code Adam Program: Code Adam is a national program designed to find a child missing within a building. It is a lock down and secure program. Motion by Dan Case, seconded by Wendy Warner, to approve the Code Adam Program. Motion carried.
2. DMA Delegate: The Detroit Metropolitan Association meeting will be in person or on zoom on Saturday, April 25. Dan Case will send a link to register and the conference agenda. If anyone wishes they can tune in. They are to be voting on a unified COA (Covenant with Other Associations) in the Michigan Conference.
3. Name Tags: Sue Mrowka wants to purchase engraved name tags for members who need one. There followed a lengthy discussion about their cost as well as using the lanyard/plastic covered type which are much cheaper. Tim Ruffner suggested that the security team have a color different from everyone else. Toni Hill noted there were some one-time use name tags donated for the rummage sale. Motion by Toni Hill, seconded by Michael Isaacs, to secure the lanyard/plastic style. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Utilization of Risers: Mark Ennis requested permission for the Taylor Community Chorus to use the risers from the church. They will pick up and return to the church. Permission was graciously approved. Mark Ennis will notify Christian Education regarding this. The confusion over the decorating and use of the Fellowship Hall by this group at Christmas was discussed. This year there needs to be clarity on who is doing what. Our Girl Scout Troop was slighted because of this confusion.

ROUNDTABLE

There was one comment that there was \$32 beyond the cost of donuts in the past Sunday's coffee hour basket.

Motion by Michael Isaacs, seconded by Toni Hill to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m. followed by the Lord's Prayer recited in unison.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane L. Dykowski
Recording Secretary

