



## February 2026 Council Meeting Minutes

<b>Date:</b> 02-10-2026	<b>Time:</b> 6:30 PM	<b>Location:</b> Fellowship Hall and Zoom
<p><b>Those present are indicated in bold:</b> Pastor Dan Nelson, Pastor Steve Olson, Deacon Savannah Olaphson, <b>Kelly Meyers</b> (Church Administrator), <b>Tom Getchius</b> (President), <b>Jim Andreen</b> (Vice-President), <b>Kirsten Stenoien</b> (Treasurer), <b>Rick Ites</b> (Financial Secretary), <b>Kim Whalen</b> (Secretary), <b>Jennifer Johnson</b> (Adult Faith Formation), Emily Sienkowski / <b>Karina Nelson</b> (Children's Education), <b>Amanda Ropchak</b> (Evangelism), <b>Bev Osekowsky / Ruth Lunde</b> (Parish Fellowship), <b>Jennifer Naslund / Nicole Seieroe</b> (Youth), <b>Lou Hernandez</b> (Property), <b>Cate Everett</b> (Social Ministry), Open Position (Stewardship), <b>Eric Lovestrand</b> (Worship, Music &amp; Arts)</p>		
<p><b>Call To Order:</b> 6:37 PM    <b>Adjourned:</b> 8:05 PM</p>		
<p><b>Approval of Minutes:</b> We voted to approve the November and January minutes. Bev O. moved, Nicole S. seconded, and all voted to approve with one minor correction. Kim W. inadvertently omitted the draft of the December minutes, so those will be approved at a later date.</p>		

Action Item	Who	Status	Expected Completion date
Update the proposed motion not to allow non-member use of space (that is not non-profit or for-profit)	Kelly M.	In Progress	2026
Proposed updated constitution and bylaws, including a change to the Service & Justice committee name.	Pastor Steve	In Progress	2026
Interim plan for music for after Easter	Pastor Dan, Eric L.	In Progress	2026

### INTRODUCTIONS

We welcomed Cate Everett (Social Justice) and Jenny Naslund (Youth) as newly elected members of council. The other change on council is that Jim Andreen has been elected into the Vice-President role, leaving the Stewardship position open.

## **ATTENDANCE AND FINANCIAL UPDATES**

### **Attendance - Rick I.**

- In January over 2,000 people attended worship.
- 61% of worshippers in January were in person and 39% watched the livestream. This was the same breakdown as last year.

### **Giving - Rick I.**

- The January general fund giving exceeded budget. Some people give lump sums in the first month or two of the year.
- There was some discussion on how to frame giving/budget communications throughout the year, with the thought that quarterly communications would be a good cadence.

### **Budget - Kirsten S.**

- Each council member should have a copy of the 2026 budget for their committee.

### **Expense Policies - Kelly M.**

- We have a new process that expenses over \$500 need to be approved by a council member (with some exceptions like cases where we have an ongoing contract). This helps the council have visibility into expenditures.
- Expenses are paid either through a request to Kelly M. to cut a check, or by church credit card use. The new policy applies to both types of payment (if over \$500).
- Designated funds have been set aside for specific purposes. Council members should be aware of these and dip into them as much as possible. Some things like salaries need to come from the general fund, but the designated funds are a good way to pay for expenses above and beyond the basic budget.
- Memorials fund money is available, so the Memorials team is always looking for ideas for good uses of those funds. Generally Memorial funds are preferred to be used for permanent items that benefit ministry.

## **WORSHIP, MUSIC, AND ARTS REPORT**

- Christina Brantner is resigning after Easter. She has helped increase Servant Song organization, and is leaving them with a lot of tools. She also spends time interacting with Holy Commotion and finding other opportunities to tie in younger musicians.
- Eric presented a music department breakdown:
  - Kyung reports to Pastor Dan. He works full-time and is responsible for music at the 9 am service and leads various groups including Handbells, Brass, and Adult Choir.

- The other music staff report to Kyung and include:
  - Christina's position is part time at 10-12 hours per week. Her responsibilities include selecting and coordinating music for the 10:30 am service, and leading the musicians at that service (also known as Servant Song).
  - Each of 3 children/youth choirs has its own director (each director works 2.5 hours per week for 9 months of the year).
  - Holy Commotion is led by Grace Porter as part of her role working with youth.
  - Organists - Joan Meyer does Saturday night and Jeong Lee does the Sunday services.
- Pastor Dan said that worship planning has historically been fragmented and last-minute, but it is getting more coordinated. The goal is to have the preachers pick text out in advance, so musicians can pick songs that go with the week's sermon theme. Lately, this has looked like Kyung and Pastor Dan working together to plan ahead. It hasn't been possible to include Christina in these worship planning discussions because she works fewer hours and isn't usually in the office.

#### **PASTORAL UPDATES - Pastor Dan**

- Over \$51,000 was raised for Cristo Obrero congregants' rent/utilities needs at the fundraiser event. This doesn't include Venmo contributions, which bring the total closer to \$90,000. We plan to stop the collection going toward rent and utilities for Cristo Obrero members, but will continue to accept funds going to the Cristo Obrero church.
- There have been a lot of baptisms, including some pandemic babies who are getting baptized now.
- Pastor Dan is helping develop a team to work on the new members process, including a higher frequency of new member events.
- The staff has decided to test out a new process that they hope will simplify communion cup use.
- Adjustments have been made to the Lent Wednesday night schedule, so worship more closely follows the meal served at the church.

#### **STAFF UPDATES - Kelly M.**

- .Work is continuing on the new website.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- If we want to get roof services from Tom Totall, who gives us a good deal, we need to do it before June.
- Jennifer J. closed the meeting with prayer.