



March 2026 Council Meeting Minutes

Date: 03-10-2026	Time: 6:30 PM	Location: Fellowship Hall and Zoom
<p>Those present are indicated in bold: Pastor Dan Nelson, Pastor Steve Olson, Deacon Savannah Olaphson, Kelly Meyers (Church Administrator), Tom Getchius (President), Jim Andreen (Vice-President), Kirsten Stenoien (Treasurer), Rick Ites (Financial Secretary), Kim Whalen (Secretary), Jennifer Johnson (Adult Faith Formation), Emily Sienkowski / Karina Nelson (Children's Education), Amanda Ropchak (Evangelism), Bev Osekowsky / Ruth Lunde (Parish Fellowship), Jennifer Naslund / Nicole Seieroe (Youth), Lou Hernandez (Property), Cate Everett (Social Ministry), Paul Stork (Stewardship), Eric Lovestrand (Worship, Music & Arts)</p>		
<p>Call To Order: 6:33 PM Devotion: Pastor Dan Adjourned: 8:03 PM</p>		
<p>Approval of Minutes: We voted to approve the December and February minutes. Ruth moved, Jim seconded, all voted to approve</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.	Completed	March 2026
Plan end of Q1 financial communication	Kirsten S. and Paul S.	In Progress	Apr 2026
Craft job description and post open music position	Pastor Dan, Kyung K. and Eric L.	In Progress	Apr 2026
Begin the process of getting some ideas for populating the building fund in a variety of creative ways	Pastor Dan	In Progress	Apr 2026

INTRODUCTIONS

- Paul Stork has joined us as the new Stewardship chair. He has been a member of Immanuel for five years and is a recently retired Pastor.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE AND INCOME REPORT (Rick I.)

Attendance

- January and February attendance were similar to last year, with slightly more live streaming. Efforts are underway to ensure all ushers use the same system for counting attendance.
- Rolling 12-month and 24-month attendance have been pretty consistent.

Giving

- February income was \$15,207 over budget.
- Year-to-date, our income is \$47,595 over budget.
- Rolling 12-month giving was up \$51,876 as of February (it was up \$34,345 in January). Kelly M. noted that we have a lot of one-time gifts that land early in the year, and they will probably slow down now that we are past February.

Memorial Committee

- Gary Hammer is the new chair of the Memorial Committee, and they have had a couple of good meetings. They have found ways to spend funds, including moving \$11k of "pending" funds out of that status. Pending means the family hasn't decided how to spend them yet. Other statuses are "designated" and "undesignated".

FINANCIAL REPORT (Kirsten S.)

Expenses and Budget

- Expenses are a bit under budget so far, but Kirsten reminded us it is early in the year and expenses have a way of arising.
- Committees should continue to get departmental budget reports from Kelly M. at month's end, and should reach out to Kelly with any questions.

Congregational Communications

- At the end of the first quarter, Kirsten will provide the congregation with numbers in the newsletter. Paul S. would like to participate in crafting that communication.

WORSHIP, MUSIC, AND ARTS STAFFING UPDATE (Pastor Dan)

- There will be a celebration for Christina Brantner on Palm Sunday as she is departing from her position after Easter.
- The interim plan for Music Ministry will be similar to the situation before we hired Christina. The current plan is for Kyung to help with more of the 10:30 service music, and Jeong to help with

more of the 9:00 service music. We are planning to be in the interim state between Easter and Memorial Day.

- A position description will be posted with a similar number of hours, but with a more carefully considered job description to ensure worked hours don't overflow paid hours. Christina has done a lot of work setting things up, so that should help the next person in the position get off to a good start.

PRINTED PRAYER REQUESTS UPDATE (Pastor Dan)

Prior to January, the only processing the church staff typically did with prayer requests was to ensure they had permission from the individuals mentioned to share the information publicly, and identify who might need follow-up from caring ministry. In response to controversy around some recent prayer requests in the bulletin, Pastor Dan met with representatives of various ministry areas who worked together to create some operating guidance for the church staff as they process our printed public prayer requests. This team decided that prayers printed in the bulletin and online should be centered on individuals and be used for sharing specific prayer requests related to people in our community. Prayers about larger community concerns or systemic issues may be broadly covered in the prayers of the people (spoken in worship) or during individuals' private prayer practice. In addition to the above considerations, all prayer requests may be edited by pastoral staff for clarity, tone, and content. Staff will follow up with prayer submitters as needed.

ROSTERED LEADER AND STAFF UPDATES

Pastor Dan

- A worship survey will be sent to the congregation to gauge people's worship preferences. It will run through Easter and will be mostly digital with some paper copies in the office for those who prefer that format. Based on her experience with the social ministry survey, Cate suggested reaching out to the various small groups within the church to help encourage a strong response.
- A Transition Team process for the open Pastor position will need to begin soon.
- There were 2 baptisms this past month, continuing the trend of young families with non-infants, who in some cases didn't have a home church prior to Immanuel. 4 more baptisms are upcoming.
- There were no funerals this past month, but one is coming up near the end of April. We also have a number of members in hospice.
- The Evangelism team continues to work on the New Member process, with a number of families joining in April. Paul S. suggested that it could be informative to survey recent new members to see what attracted them to Immanuel. Amanda R. said the committee has also considered informal follow-ups.

Kelly M.

- Kelly, Sarah, and John are working on migrating the church website. The plan is to release the new website after Easter.

OTHER BUSINESS

- A sign-up sheet was sent around to lead devotions for upcoming council meetings.
- Youth Rejoice had 38 youth volunteers and 14 adults. More breakfast was served this year (164 meals). The silent auction had 20 fewer items than last year, which was ok because it was less overwhelming. Students who worked that morning earned between \$27 and \$28 an hour for their youth accounts. The auction brought in \$2,500, the breakfast brought in \$1,100, and the scholarship fund donations amounted to \$1,284.
- Amanda R. reported that Evangelism is considering options for funding a tent for Welcome Weekend, versus not having a tent.
- Lou H. reported on some Properties items:
 - We received a quote to retrofit the church lights with LED bulbs. After rebates and energy savings, we would make up the cost quickly.
 - There are plans to fill the potholes in the parking lot.
 - There is a proposal to add a meditative labyrinth to the church yard. It would come out of Memorial's funds.
 - The fire panel needs fixing, so when we pull a permit for the roof, we'll also need to cover the cost of the fire panel.
 - There are plans to display the community-created mural in the Fellowship Hall.