



June 2026 Council Meeting Minutes

Date: 06-16-2026	Time: 6:30 PM	Location: Fellowship Hall and Zoom
Those present are indicated in bold: Pastor Dan Nelson , 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), Paul and Barb Savereide		
Call To Order: 6:33 PM Devotion: Karina Nelson Adjourned: 8:15 PM		
Approval of Minutes: Bev O. moved, Ruth L. seconded, all voted to approve the May minutes.		

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 - i.e. private parties	Kelly M. and Staff	Complete	2026
Proposed updated constitution and bylaws, including a change to the Service & Justice committee name.	Tom G. and Pastor Dan	In Progress	2026

LABYRINTH

Barb Savereide shared information about the proposed labyrinth including:

- What a labyrinth is
 - contemplative walk
 - goes back 1000's of years and dates to the medieval church
 - one of the most famous ones is at the Chartres Cathedral in France
 - can be found at churches, retreat centers, parks, monastic communities

- Specific Design
 - 7 circuit processional - you don't intersect with another person who is also walking it.
 - flat pavers to outline a grass path
 - pavers would match those used in the columbarium area
 - a marker at the entrance briefly explaining the labyrinth as a walk with God
 - natural light only - no plan for lighting
 - maintenance designed to only require mowing
 - in a private location on the church grounds (no windows overlooking)
 - eventually there may be a circular bench in the center (though council later discussed that any bench should be easily removable for safety reasons)
- Usage and Etiquette
 - would like to launch it, make it open to the community, and add it to the world-wide labyrinth map
 - could be a resource for confirmation groups
 - ok for kids to run across it during outdoor worship or other activities
- Costs
 - the labyrinth installation cost is covered by memorial funds
 - there would be no special maintenance as it can be mowed over by the lawn maintenance company
- Discussion
 - Locating the sign on the side of the trees would keep it away from where kids might be running. That would likely mean positioning the entrance near the trees, and the exit on the parking lot side.
 - The council did a field trip outside to see the roped-off proposed area, and people liked how it fit in with the surrounding area.
 - Some council members expressed concerns about the safety of having a bench in the middle. If there is a bench, it would need to be moveable/removable for safety or maintenance purposes.
- Follow-up
 - Pastor Dan will get input from Paul E. and Grace P. on the size, location, and bench.
 - Then a motion will be formed and sent to the council to approve via email.

- THE FOLLOWING MOTION WAS LATER **APPROVED** BY EMAIL:

The Council votes to approve moving forward with the labyrinth installation, contingent on meeting agreed design parameters that preserve safety, flexibility, and open space usability.

TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE (Ruth Lunde)

- Input has been gathered through many forums. Some recurring topics include:
 - can relate to people of all ages, from children to elderly
 - can work well with Pastor Dan and all the existing staff
 - good at preaching and the sacraments
 - good at listening and communication
 - firmly rooted in faith and the Bible
- Work has begun on the Ministry Site Profile (MSP), with the goal of finishing it by the end of June.
- Pastor Jen, the assistant to the bishop, attended the most recent Transition Team meeting. She voiced confidence that we will get good candidates for the position.
- The team plans to send a job description, the MSP, and the recommendation to form a call committee to the council in advance of the July meeting.

IMMANUEL FACILITY USE (Kelly M.)

- We have historically not charged for use of our building by non-profit groups.
- There is some cost to hosting these groups, particularly the need for more custodial work, but also some wear and tear and utility use.
- Sarah H., Kelly M., and Pastor Dan have spent some time thinking about this.
 - One option would be to charge a small fee. It would not cover all the costs, but it would mean the groups have "skin in the game". We don't even want it to cover all the costs, for tax reasons since we are non-profit.
 - We could potentially increase custodial staff as a future move. These funds wouldn't cover that, but might help offset the cost.
 - Immanuel staff would have discretion to waive the charges for some groups
- A detailed proposal will follow

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE AND INCOME REPORT (Rick I.)

Attendance

- Live-streaming percent is staying steady.
- For the 12-month rolling period, attendance is up a little bit.

Giving

- \$66k over budget for the month.
- Immanuel received a one-off donation in May that we budgeted for in April.
- YTD giving is over budget.
- For the 12-month rolling period, giving is up about \$57k.

FINANCIAL REPORT (Kirsten S.)

Expenses and Budget

- YTD Income \$85k over budget.
- No unexpected expenses.
- Building Reserve fund up to \$57k donated. We hope it will get up to \$70k soon, which would be high enough to feel confident scheduling the needed roof repair (2 sections). Paying this won't require a council vote as long as the money can come out of the Building Reserve Fund and we don't need to dip into the General Fund.

ROSTERED LEADER AND STAFF UPDATES

Pastor Dan

- No weddings or baptisms. Consulted on a funeral.
- Staff are taking their vacations since programming is light now that it is summer.
- One application for Band Leader. Still deciding whether to pursue that candidate.
- Still deciding on Cornerstone Choir for next year, given Barb's retirement.
- Working on annual reviews, which will be completed by the end of July. The point is to facilitate conversations.
- The staff is ideating on fall themes.

Kelly M.

- Replaced lights with LEDs.
- There are plans to tear down and rebuild the outdoor stage in advance of Vacation Bible School.
- Sarah H. and Kelly M. have divided responsibilities so Kelly covers volunteers and money and Sarah covers other topics.
- Made the decision to schedule people for Sunday volunteer positions, and it is working well that way.
- We are having issues with the compostable paper towels in the restrooms, because people are throwing other things in the compost bin.