

September Congregation Council Minutes

Date: September 15, 2026; **Time:** 6:30 PM; **Location:** OSLC Conference Room

Present: Pr. Leland Armbright, Julie Ackerman, Kyle Bartholomay, Kerry Gustafson, Erin Hall, Matt Martien, Deb Morris, Sarah Ward

Remote:

Absent: Lauri Pudwill, Tyr Altman,

Guests:

Minutes

1. **Call to Order** at 6:40 PM
2. **Devotions**
 - Kyle Bartholomay
3. **Consent Agenda**
 - Review and approval of pre-distributed reports and routine items for efficiency.
 - i. August [Minutes](#)
 - ii. September [Agenda](#)
 - iii. [Ministry Team Reports](#)
 - iv. [Pastoral Reports](#)
 - Motion to approve: Sarah
 - Second: Kerry
 - Approved by: All in favor
4. **Consent Exceptions:**
 - No exceptions
5. **Financial Report**
 - **Prior Month Review:**
 - i. Financial Statements
 - Report will be emailed when it is ready, delayed with new hire training
 - Financial summary for the bulletin will be shared and approved via email
 - **Loan or Other Financial Details:**
 - i. Mortgage payments start September, 2026
 - ii. Yearly financial review needs to be scheduled; March, 2027.
 - iii. Next Month: Budget timeline will be decided by October council meeting
5. **Council Working Groups**
 - Beyond the Plate Conversations update (Deb) - this work is paused
 - Stewardship for all Seasons (PL) -
 - i. Commitment Sunday is November 22, 2026
 - ii. Council and staff will be asked to commit the first week of November to show leadership support
6. **Old Business**
 - InterServe contract update
 - i. Interserve contract has been signed by both parties

- Communication plan
 - a. Select the Discovery team candidates
 - i. Invitations have been extended to six people to be part of the team
 - b. Share the interserve website with the congregation for information
 - i. This will get updated once the Discovery team is formed
- Construction update
 - i. EMI (sound) is expected to start work this week which keeps us on track for an October 11th sanctuary opening
 - ii. October 25, 2026 Kristen Fryer will attend worship and dedicate the sanctuary
- Council retreat - review mission/vision, next steps, strategic planning
 - i. Paused for the short term
- Noah's Ark
 - i. Identify who needs to be involved in determining next steps and proposal
 - Schedule time with Congregation Council and Noah's Ark Board in October (Deb)
- Sunday Coffee Coordinator
 - i. Kari Solheim has agreed to volunteer
- Property insurance change
 - i. Table this to October's meeting

7. New Business

- Welcome Wednesday (September 23) status update
 - i. 6:00 - 7:00 PM with a parent meeting and kids activity; supper for everyone at 6:30; email and social media communication going out
- Staffing Discussions
 - i. Interim Youth Director - Sonja has been hired at 24 hours per week
 - ii. Interim Associate Pastor - PL and Executive Committee both met with them this week;
 - A motion has been made to move forward with checking references and negotiating pay to call Meredith McGrath as an Interim Pastor, giving Deb and Kerry authority to finalize within our budget.
 - a. Motion made by: Sarah
 - b. Second: Julie
 - c. Approved by: All in favor
 - iii. Accompanist - Tristan has accepted, start date yet tbd
- Update Office Manager's job description - PL and Sierra to connect
- Review Updated Job Descriptions
 - i. [2026 proposed Interim Director of Children's Ministry Director](#)
 - Motion to approve: Erin
 - Second: Matt
 - Approved by: All in favor
 - ii. [2026 Interim Youth Director](#)
 - Motion to approve: Sarah
 - Second: Matt
 - Approved by: All in favor

- iii. [2026 proposed Director of Music](#) & Worship Production
 - Motion to approve: Kyle
 - Second: Kerry
 - Approved by: All in favor
- iv. Offer of position Director of Music & Worship Production
 - Motion to extend the offer and commiserate pay raise of this position to Ellie Lehn
 - Motion to approve: Kerry
 - Second: Kyle
- Nominating Committee
 - i. Three council members, including Treasurer
 - PL and Deb to reach out to the nominating committee
- Annual Report
 - i. Include family and member count
 - ii. Include new member pictures
- Push for Breeze update
 - i. Will be done as part of the stewardship campaign
- Updated photos of council members
- Staff Meeting Attendance: [Council Meetings, Devotions, Staff Meetings](#)
- 8. Congregation feedback**
 - A congregant shared they are happy to be having one service
 - Sanctuary looks great
 - Positive feedback on the youth skit on Rally Sunday
- 9. Affirmations**
 - Marianne and Jeanie for their children's ministry leadership
 - Kelly and Maureen for a fun Rally Sunday
 - Ellie and the tech team for working diligently to make worship in Luther Hall possible each week
 - All our musicians who've adjusted and tweaked their routines and patterns to contribute to worship this summer.
 - The volunteers and Sonja getting youth ministry up and running
 - Vern and Chuck for keeping things ready in Luther Hall each week for worship
 - For our staff for helping me not drop too many of the balls we're all juggling
 - Roy for doing maintenance work on the lawn mower
 - Donna, John, and Peggy for painting the sanctuary walls
- 10. Motion to End**
 - Motion to adjourn at 8:35 PM: Kerry
 - Second: Kyle
 - Approved by: All in favor
- 11. Lord's Prayer**

Reference Docs

[Schedule: Council Meetings, Devotions, Staff Meetings](#)
[Council Ministry Team Alignment](#)
[Parking Lot](#)