

March Congregation Council Minutes

Date: March 17, 2026; **Time:** 6:30 PM; **Location:** OSLC Conference Room

Present: Pr. Leland Armbright, Deb Morris, Kerry Gustafson, Matt Martien, Sarah Ward, Tyr Altman, Erin Hall

Remote: Juli Ackerman

Absent: Pr. Susie Modrow, Lauri Pudwill, Kyle Bartholomay

Guests:

Agenda

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Introductions**
3. **Executive Team Election**
 - A motion was made to nominate Deb Morris as President
 - i. Motion: Sarah
 - ii. Second: Matt
 - A motion was made to nominate Lauri Pudwell as Vice President
 - i. Motion: Kerry
 - ii. Second: Deb
 - A motion was made to nominate Sarah Ward as Secretary
 - i. Motion: Deb
 - ii. Second: Leland
 - All in favor, motion passed
4. **Devotions**
 - In Lauri's absence Pastor Leland read a devotion from Lauri
5. **Consent Agenda**
 - Review and approval of pre-distributed reports and routine items for efficiency.
 - i. [February Minutes](#)
 - ii. March Agenda
 - iii. [Ministry Team Reports](#)
 - iv. [Pastoral Reports](#)
 1. A motion was made to officially change Doreen Hutchings' title to Director of Adult Choirs.
 - a. Motion to approve: Kerry
 - b. Second: Tyr
 - c. Approved: All
 2. A motion was made to participate in the Stewardship for all Seasons program with the Synod at the cost of \$2,900 spread out over two years and paid for by seeking alternative funding.
 - a. Motion to approve: Deb
 - b. Second: Erin
 - c. Approved: All
6. **Financial Report**
 - **Prior Month Review:**
 - i. Financial statements reviewed

- ii. A motion was made to accept the financial reports
 - 1. Motion to approve: Matt
 - 2. Second: Tyr
 - 3. Approved: All
 - **Step-up Update**
 - i. Communication to congregation continues to be in The Pulse, emailed, and in the bulletin
 - ii. \$41,000 of the \$65,000 needed has been received to date
 - **Loan or Other Financial Details:**
 - i. Determine where funding will come for the sewer repair ~\$12,100
 - ii. Potential replacement of 2 toilets \$1,155
 - 1. A motion was made to add the sewer repair and toilet replacements estimates into the MIF loan.
 - a. Motion to approve: Deb
 - b. Second: Matt
 - c. Approved: All
 - iii. Endowment grant applications
- 5. **Consent Exceptions:** Address any items pulled from the consent agenda for further discussion.
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- 6. **Council Working Groups**
 - Review council support for working groups and reassign [council liaison](#) and determine ongoing
 - i. Know your congregation (Lauri)
 - 1. It is time to retire this group as the work has been completed with misc.tasks moving to administration.
 - ii. Marketing and Design (Deb, Kelly, Sierra, Donna, Leland)
 - 1. This group is now an administrative team and will not be continuing to report to the council.
 - iii. Noah's Ark (Kerry, Deb)
 - 1. A conversation to explore mediation will be scheduled with a sub-committee of council members
 - iv. Finance/Stewardship (Kerry, Mark Groff, Pat Mann)
 - 1. Plans are underway for a time and talent kick-off event to be launched on Easter in the bulletin and a temple talk the following Sunday
 - v. Beyond the Plate Conversations update (Deb)
 - 1. No update
 - vi. Safety Team (Pr. Leland)
 - 1. This group is now an administrative team and will not be continuing to report to the council.
- 7. **Old Business**
 - None
- 8. **New Business**
 - Council retreat - potential dates with location tbd
 - i. April 18 - 12:30 - 4:30
 - ii. April 26 12:30 - 4:30
 - A recap of the land conversation with Tradition Commercial Real Estate was had

- i. Council to ask finance team to bring recommendation of policy to council for allocation of donated funds
- Review subcommittees and determine which are completed
- Review [council roles document](#) and approve
 - i. Defer to next meeting
- Endowment Grant Applications
 - i. Defer to next meeting
- 9. Congregation feedback**
 - Lots of positive energy around the volunteering
- 10. Affirmations**
 - Johnny Timm for co-leading an event at Feed My Starving Children
 - Kerry Gustafson for her energy and great work
 - Please affirm Renee Dietz and Molly Seeman for their tremendous work in coordinating the cleaning crews. Volunteers have already tackled their segments of the building and things are looking splendid. Those cleaning crew volunteers should also be affirmed. I feel a very positive energy around this initiative.
 - The facilities team had a productive work session today. Workers include Kerry and Mark Gustafson, Janis Taramelli, Molly Seeman, Jeff Weiss, Cheryl and Chris Stjern, Deb Morris and Vern Nelson. Accomplished tasks include window washing, floor vent cleaning, thorough cleaning of all the stackable chairs in Luther Hall, wall prep for painting in the Legacy hallway, wiping down baseboards, filling floor drains and cleaning the sliding door tracks. Donna Juran will be coordinating the painting of the Legacy hallway walls in preparation for installation of the old chancel furniture carvings.
 - Affirm Ron and Mark Prazak, and Paul Swanson who have removed the carvings and prepared them for display.
 - Affirm Karen and Peter Moberg, and Pat Benoy for their work in setting up the labyrinth, the instructions and devotional.
 - The Amazing Grays plan to do a deep cleaning of the sanctuary on March 25th.
 - To the outgoing staff members for sharing their gifts and talents with us
 - Guatemala team for hosting LIFT
 - Scouts for hosting annual meeting meal
 - Rick at Mueller Bies
 - Volunteers assisting with Youth Club
 - PL, Ellie, and Nick for assisting while Pastor Susie was out on continuing ed
- 11. Motion to End:**
 - 1. Motion to approve: Kerry
 - 2. Second: Sarah
- 12. Lord's Prayer**

Reference Docs

Parking Lot:  CC Parking Lot

[Council Meetings and Devotion Schedule](#)

[Congregation Council Roles and Responsibilities](#)

[Council Roles Document](#)

