

**SAINT LUCAS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**Minutes of the Church Council Regular Meeting**  
**April 28, 2025**

The Church Council convened for the public April Regular Meeting on Monday, April 28, 2025 in Room 19 and via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 P.M. by Barbara Smith, President of the Council.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Amanda Boyer, Kirk Dalgaard, Phil Denton, Katy Forand, Wanda Gillman, Tracy Mulderig, and Barbara Smith. || Seven members. (*Absent – Melinda Borman & Marty Schmidt*)

**STAFF PRESENT:** Rev. George Miller, Senior Minister

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Bill Biedenstein, *Bill Brinkhorst/Zoom, Kristin Buckholz/Zoom, Joy Dressel/Zoom, Lynn Fey/Zoom, Marsha Fey/Zoom, Pat Fribis/Zoom, Ken Hamilton/Zoom, Dan Herron, Kathy Herron/Zoom, Ellen Littleton/Zoom, Cynthia Rosfeld/Zoom, Kim Witbrodt/Zoom.* || Thirteen Visitors.

**OPENING PRAYER:** Barbara Smith opened the meeting with a prayer.

**GUEST COMMENTS:** Bill Biedenstein shared his opinion that St. Lucas UCC is a welcoming community and applauded efforts to re-engage with Friendship Village. He recommended that the Council consider opportunities to heal the hurt feelings of our members who attended on Saturday nights.

**ONE WORD “THANKS”:** Each Council member shared one thing for which they felt gratitude.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

It was moved by Phil Denton and seconded by Wanda Gillman that the following items be approved by consent agenda:

- Cemetery Board Meeting – January 15, 2025, Minutes
- Cemetery Board Meeting – March 19, 2025, Minutes
- Council Regular Meeting – February 24, 2025, Minutes
- Council Regular Meeting | Executive Session – February 24, 2025, Minutes
- Council Regular Meeting – March 24, 2025, Minutes
- Finance Committee Meeting – March 18, 2025, Minutes
- Personnel Committee Meeting – March 10, 2025, Minutes
- Physical Facilities Committee Meeting – April 17, 2025, Minutes

The motion carried unanimously (7-0) by show of hands with no abstentions.

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

**Staff Reports** – Three written reports were submitted to the Council prior to the meeting.

- Senior Minister Report – March
- Associate Minister of Pastoral Care and Visitation Report – March
- Communications Report – April

No additional discussion was necessary.

**Finance Committee Report** – Financial Secretary Wanda Gillman submitted two written reports to the Council prior to the meeting.

- Balance Sheet Analysis as of March 31, 2025
- Analysis of Revenue and Expenses as of March 31, 2025

Wanda supplemented the written reports with an oral update that the March 2025 Regular Offering (\$56,885.16) came in slightly below budget. The March 2025 Total Income (\$127,261.82) was over budget, primarily driven by the three quarterly endowment fund distributions. March Total Expenses (\$82,835.41) were under budget (-\$16,441.69). The main expenses were salt + snow

removal, the Sexton house roof replacement, and the Backpack Ministry. Plans are moving forward with the external audit this summer. A new expense policy will be ready for Council approval soon.

Wanda Gillman recognized that committees are practicing thoughtful financial stewardship to keep expenses down. Tracy Mulderig added that the Regular Offering totals are pacing close to the target if seasonal offerings (e.g., Thanksgiving Offering, Christmas Offering) are moved to the Q4 budget instead of prorated across all months.

**Physical Facilities Committee Report** – Kirk Dalgaard provided an update on behalf of the Physical Facilities Ministry.

- 1) The Sexton's house roof replacement is finished and may cost less than anticipated.
- 2) Multiple sidewalks on the property need repair. Bids are being gathered by the committee. It was unknown by Kirk whether these repairs were anticipated in the budget.
- 3) The committee is working with Glandt Roofing to schedule the roof repairs that were deferred over winter.

Barbara Smith reported that she is waiting to hear from Donovan Larson about the fence along the parking lot, which has been repaired since the prior Council meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Staff Duty Survey Status** – Barbara Smith reported that the Personnel Committee is actively collaborating with staff to update all job descriptions.

**Sports Contracts** – Appointing a successor to shadow Violet Brooks was postponed. Barbara Smith agreed to research whether this member could be from the general church population vs. someone on the Council. The idea of pursuing a long-term lease with the Lindbergh School District was suggested again.

**Establishing a Worship Committee** – Barbara Smith reported that committee member selection is in progress.

**August Deaconess Event** – Barbara Smith provided an update on the event that Carol Barner requested to host in the Fellowship Hall on August 17<sup>th</sup>. Around 175 attendees are expected. The Council agreed to verify the maximum capacity for the Fellowship Hall and to review the current alcohol policy once the caterer is selected.

**Engaging Younger Members** – On behalf of the Membership & Evangelism Committee, Tracy Mulderig recommended that the Council hold a separate meeting to review the feedback from younger members. The objectives of this ideation session would be 1) isolating themes, 2) brainstorming opportunities, 3) identifying what additional information is needed, and 4) defining pre-requisites to be met before moving forward with implementation. This meeting was scheduled for May 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.

Rev. Miller reminded the Council about the importance of setting expectations. The Council agreed to treat this as a preliminary strategy session instead of a decision-making session.

**Friendship Village Worship Proposal** – Rev. Miller expressed gratitude for the honest feedback from the Congregation and tabled the Friendship Village Worship proposal. A need exists to offer Communion to Friendship Village residents; Rev. Miller shared that a 100-year-old Methodist resident deeply appreciated the ability to receive Communion at our Easter afternoon service after attending Chapel in the morning without Communion.

**Donor Recognition** – Kirk Dalgaard recommended reactivating the topic of how St. Lucas UCC can better honor donor gifts and reviewing the historical records for large donations to identify a list of names for inclusion. The Council agreed to send photos of examples at other institutions to [council@stlucasucc.org](mailto:council@stlucasucc.org) and encouraged other attendees to do so as well.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Sexton House Vacancy** – Barbara Smith reported that the Barners intend to move out of the Sexton house on May 15th. The Council asked whether Rev. Miller was interested in moving into the property. Rev. Miller declined and instead recommended that the Council explore the option of selling the property. The Council agreed to gather more information about the pros and cons of renting vs. selling for future discussion.

**May Council Meeting** – The Council agreed to hold next month’s meeting on Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 pm instead of on the Memorial Day holiday.

**A/V Job Opening** – Barbara Smith reported that the open role was posted on 4/15/25 and 6 applications have been received so far.

**PET Trustee Appointment** – Barbara Smith reminded the Council that Scott Benack’s replacement will need to be appointed once a satisfactory letter of resignation is received. A member has expressed interest in filling the vacancy.

**Parsonage Lease** – Barbara Smith reported that a pit bull escaped from the Parsonage property while the Preschool was occupying the playground, disrupting the school day until the dog could be contained. Paragraph 21 of the lease states that “the tenant may not keep pets on the premises without the prior written consent of the landlord.” Consequences of violating this paragraph may include a \$500 fine, immediate removal of the unauthorized pet, and default of the lease. Separate provisions are included for service animals. To Barbara’s knowledge, no written consent has been granted.

The Council discussed whether Sunset Hills has an ordinance prohibiting pit bulls; if not, the breed is irrelevant given that any dog violates the terms of the lease agreement. Barbara Smith agreed to check on whether a provision exists.

It was moved by Phil Denton and seconded by Barbara Smith that the Council send a certified letter to the tenants demanding the removal of the pit bull and any other pets from the premises in reference to the lease provision and state that any future pets that are put on the premises without the landlord’s consent will be deemed a default and consequent eviction.

The Council discussed whether it is important to know if the tenant owns the dog or was temporarily caring for it. It was recommended that the Council also verify that permission for this pet was not granted by an unauthorized party. Alternative language for the letter was suggested to be more open-ended than the original motion.

Phil Denton amended the motion to “that the Council send a certified letter to inquire about the animal in the house.” Barbara Smith seconded the amended motion. The amended motion carried unanimously (7-0) by show of hands with no abstentions.

**Blue Jean Sunday** – Amanda Boyer shared that someone suggested “Blue Jean Sunday” as an extension of the Easter hat fundraiser to collect donations for a specific mission. This could be an opportunity to dress less formally on a quarterly basis like the Socks & Crocs service. Concerns were raised about redundancies with our monthly mission presentations & special offering envelopes, as minimal funds are donated directly for the monthly missions in the current state.

**Communications Committee** – Tracy Mulderig reported that Kristin Buckholz is interested in forming a Communications Ministry. The goal would be for members with a background in marketing to help support Denec Bowers in her capacity as part-time Communications Coordinator. More details will be shared at a future meeting.

The public session of the Church Council meeting recessed at 7:35 P.M.

*(Minute marker: 1 hour/32 minutes)*

Respectfully submitted,  
Tracy Mulderig  
Recording Secretary

*The next regular meeting of the Church Council is scheduled for Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 pm.*

Approved by the St. Lucas UCC Church Council on May 22, 2025