October 2026 Church Council Meeting Minutes

Draft for Council review • Prepared from meeting transcript

Meeting called to order: 6:08 p.m. by CJ | Adjourned: 7:49 p.m.
Date: October 13, 2026
Attendance: CJ, Sue, Patti, Erin, Tasha and Lu Ann. Ed, and Peter were reported absent.

Opening Devotion and Discipleship Discussion

- Patti led a devotion on remembering God's faithfulness, reflecting on the golden calf narrative and the importance of gratitude, and closed with prayer.
- Council discussed its discipleship reading, including Lectio Divina, listening to Scripture, praying with Scripture, and viewing Bible reading as a relationship with God rather than an obligation.

Secretary's Report

- Previous meeting minutes were reviewed. Lu Ann identified a spelling correction to Joe Gaier's name on the first page.
- Motion to approve the minutes with the correction: Sue; second: Patti. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report and Budget Planning

- Erin reviewed cash flow and designated gifts and memorial accounts. The checking-account book balance was approximately $9,000 at month-end; the report also reflected approximately $19,700 before outstanding checks.
- Some designated accounts showed negative balances because expenses were charged to gifts and memorials without corresponding designated funds, or were recorded in the wrong accounts. Erin described planned correcting journal entries and possible year-end transfers from general funds, subject to cash needs.
- Council discussed timely disbursement of restricted gifts, including approximately $2,470 collected for Interfaith. Quarterly reviews and clearer authorization procedures were discussed, not formally adopted.
- Erin proposed clearer revenue/expense labels, correctly grouping expense accounts by ministry, adding account numbers to purchase requests, and preparing more detailed committee budgets tied to the chart of accounts. Committee draft budgets are expected for the November meeting.
- Council discussed the need to distinguish the bank balance from the book balance and to avoid netting revenue and expenses, so actual spending can be accurately reported.
- Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made and seconded; motion carried
- Boiler Inspection and Compliance - CJ reported that an insurer's boiler inspection notice from May identified two items requiring follow-up. Documentation of completion had not been received by the insurer, raising the possibility of a delayed state operating permit or penalties.

- CJ forwarded the matter to Ed for verification and follow-up. Council emphasized the need to clarify staff responsibilities for responding to inspection notices and maintaining compliance records.

Pastor and Staff Updates

- Staff retreat follow-up included individual staff assignments, education and training opportunities.
- Upcoming activities included the stewardship drive and joint worship involving the Ho-Chunk community and UCC.

Technology and Records

- The final approximately ten boxes of old records were expected to be shredded during the week, completing the records cleanup and freeing storage space. Peter was identified as handling the work.

Worship

- With the pastor away on October 18, Ann volunteered to deliver the message. The Worship Committee sought a lay leader for prayers and other portions of the service
- The committee discussed using SignUpGenius for worship and hospitality volunteers, coordinating it with the paper clipboard, and promoting automated reminders while preserving options for those who do not use online tools.

Building and Grounds

- An excavator was expected during October to address the drainage issue near the building; additional investigation and an update were pending.
- Council discussed roof snow guards, an approximately $6,000 quoted cost, equipment rental, and the need for a second quote and follow-up before winter. No contract approval was recorded.

Education and Youth and Family

- God's Work. Our Hands activities included approximately 35 people assembling school kits and making about 54 cards, approximately 40 volunteers visiting Pineview Terrace and Meadowbrook, and 12 people completing outdoor work for three individuals.
- Sunday School enrollment reached 52 registered children. Volunteers reported a positive start, and an electronic check-in system was being explored.
- Confirmation students participated in outdoor service work. Book and Bible studies continued, including a Sunday study led by Paul.
- A possible family event or retreat space was mentioned, with follow-up still needed.

Witness, Outreach and Community Needs

- Winter supplies, including gloves, emergency blankets and hand warmers, and nonperishable goods were ordered for the Blessing Box. The storage area was inspected, with no evidence of mice reported.
- The Homelessness Committee was scheduled to meet the following Tuesday. Additional supplies may be needed for Community Connect in January.
- Council discussed shifting away from clothing collections because of unusable donations and volunteer workload, and considering a more focused toiletries drive.
- Members discussed balancing established ministries, seasonal requests, donor restrictions, volunteer capacity, and openness to new service opportunities. No formal change in outreach priorities was adopted.

Stewardship and WELCA

- Stewardship pledge letters and envelopes were being mailed. Members were encouraged to contribute photographs, memorabilia and written memories to a church-history timeline.
- A video highlighting the church's legacy and history was shared. WELCA fall activities and Advent soup suppers were discussed.
- Advent decorating was announced for Saturday, November 28, at 10:00 a.m. A veterans breakfast was also mentioned.
- Council discussed designated giving and red-envelope ministries, including radio ministry and bed nets, and the importance of accurately tracking gifts.

Mighty Table and Food Partnerships

- Patti reported participation in a Jackson County food coalition involving local food providers and organizations.
- Potential partnerships included meal assistance for a planned domestic violence shelter, delivery assistance for Friends Sharing Food, access to Feed My People resources, and a possible pop-up food pantry in December. Plans were exploratory and not finalized.
- Radio ministry was discussed separately: costs were described as approximately $250 per month, with September gifts of approximately $650 and a reported balance of approximately $4,500.

Next Meeting and Adjournment

- Next Council meeting: Tuesday, November 10, 2026.
- Council concluded with the Lord's Prayer. A motion to adjourn was made and seconded and carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.