

Church Council Minutes – Approved

February 10, 2026

Present: Barb Witt, Wayne Titus, Bill Briggs, Kathleen Mueller, Bernice Lopata, Lynne Snyder, Larry Fuerst, Jody Betten, Dan Plasman, Mike VerMerris

1) *Call to Order* –Barb called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm. (**Appendix-A** – agenda, embedded file below)

2) *Opening Prayer* – Dan opened the meeting with a reflective reading on generosity.

3) *December 2025 Meeting Minutes* – Mike distributed a draft of the January 6, Council Meeting minutes prior to this meeting.

Motion: from Wayne for approval of the minutes. Bill second. Motion approved.

Action: The approved meeting minutes will be accessible within the E-pistle and posted on the Friendship Hall bulletin board. (**Appendix-B** - embedded file below)

4) *Financial Report* – Prior to the meeting Wayne distributed January’s financial report: Statement of Activity – Jul 25-Jan 26 (DUCC Income Statement Comparative YTD). (**Appendix-C** - embedded file below). The Statement of Activity compares current YTD budget line items to those of the previous year. Wayne will use this format going forward.

Motion: from Bernie to approve the financial report as presented. Dan second. Motion approved.

Additional Items:

a) *Program-Based Budgeting Policy* – Prior to the meeting Wayne distributed a copy of this proposed policy, dated: ‘Created - February 2026; Modified – NA’ (**Appendix-D** - embedded file below). The policy was reviewed and discussed.

Motion: from Wayne to approve the Program-Based Budgeting Policy as a draft policy for trial in the coming year. Bill second. Motion approved.

b) *Confirmation that Wayne has been added to the investment websites* – Mike reported that Cornerstone Fund has sent Wayne their initial contact email, and United Church Funds will be in contact with him within the next few days.

c) *Mission and Outreach Budgeting and Grants Funding Policy* - Prior to the meeting Wayne distributed a copy of this proposed policy, dated: ‘Created - January 2026; Modified - January 2026’ (**Appendix-E** - embedded file below). After reviewing the policy, the only concern voiced was regarding the wording of its scope. Rather than the scope redefining specific mission and outreach expenditures, Mike felt that the existing Policy on Mission and Outreach Giving #4-3 should be referenced in the scope instead. Mike will propose a revised scope for review during the next council meeting.

5) *Campus Steward Report* – Prior to this meeting, Kathleen distributed three reports: 1) Written explanation of Treasurer’s Statement of Activity and Campus Steward Expenditure Review; 2) Statement of Activity – Treasurer: Color coded by expense category; 3) Statement of Activity – Campus Steward: Re-racked by expense type. (**Appendix-F, G & H** - embedded files below)

Highlights:

a) Final income from the Campus Stewardship Drive totaled \$327,650.

b) The total construction costs for both Phase 1 & 2 totaled \$347,471.

- c) *Campus Steward's Conclusion:* The Friendship Hall construction process encountered many more structural improvements than originally anticipated. Costs for the entire project ended at 6.0% over total income. In US construction, 10-30% over projected budget is typical, therefore DUCC's outcome should be considered a success. As a congregation, we stepped up to the challenge of 'Building our Legacy' by achieving above the increased financial goal set. Because of our faithfulness, generosity, and dedication, the structures of our church are secure for the next 100 years.
- 6) *Pastors Report* – Prior to this meeting Jody and Dan distributed their report dated 'January 7, 2026 – February 10, 2026'. (**Appendix-I** - embedded file below) It listed the many meetings they have attended, both on and off campus. Dan and Jody have recruited members for their Pastor Support Teams. Dan's team includes Jim DeVries, Jim Kern, and Linda Knierieman. Jody's team includes Greg Sherman, Kirsten Stannis, and Demetrhea Terrien.
Action: The detailed Pastors report will be accessible within the E-pistle and posted on the bulletin board in the Friendship Hall.
- 7) *Old Business:*
- a) *Nominating Committee* – The committee is gathering background information to provide prospective candidates.
 - b) *Priority List* – Barb felt the list was on track, and to expedite the meeting, review was tabled. (**Appendix-J** - embedded file below)
 - c) *Revise Title of the Behavior Covenants* – Alternate titles were discussed. The title picked was "Being with One Another – Right Relationships".
- 8) *New Business:*
- a) *Roll Over Provision for Grant Policy* - Previous members of the Grant Committee requested council consider using the prior wording in the grant policy (from the previous revision) which instructed any unused funds be donated to the Michigan Conference UCC for distribution to a UCC mission. The current policy states "the Grants Committee may "save-up" any quarterly amount to provide larger grants at a future date". After discussion it was determined to keep the current wording of the policy. Barb will follow up with those who brought the question forward.
 - b) *Retreat House Usage; Seek to understand and gather thoughts prior to updating the policy* – The Douglas UCC Retreat House & Spiritual Center functions as a "quiet, comfortable place for clergy and their staffs to meditate, collaborate, or simply rejuvenate". It also serves as a center for spiritual growth programs, offered within the congregation. It was determined that before the policy is revised, "we need a broader conversation on what our vision is for this space".
 - c) *Second Service Update* – The committee reviewing options for a second service will meet on March 13.
 - d) *Formatting Policy Manual*- The goal is a digital distribution format, moving away from the current hardcopies in binders.
- 9) *Closing Remarks & Reflection:*
- The meeting seemed to run long (ran 10 minutes over schedule).
- 10) *Closing Prayer* – Bernie lead us in a closing prayer.
- 11) *Adjournment* – 8:00 pm.

- Next Council Meeting (Zoom) - Tuesday, March 10, at 6:00 pm.

(Reference page-3 for Appendix ‘A’ through ‘J’)

Appendix-A (Section 1 – February Meeting Agenda)



Agenda 02.26.pdf

Appendix-B (Section 3 – January Minutes)



Approved Church
Council Minutes Jan

Appendix-C (Section 4 - Financial Report)



DCUCC Income
Statement Compara

Appendix-D (Section 4a – Program-Based Budgeting Policy)



DUCC_Program_Bas
ed_Budgeting_Polic

Appendix-E (Section 4c – Mission and Outreach Budgeting and Grants Funding Policy)



DUCC_Mission_and
_Outreach_Policy_ar

Appendix-F, G & H (Section 5 – Campus Steward Report)



Campus Stewardship - 2026 | DUCC_Statement of Activity 503.1- Treas | DUCC_Statement of Activity 503.1 - RE-R/

Appendix-I (Section 6 – Pastors Report, February)



February 2026
Pastors Report.pdf

Appendix-J (Section 7b – Old Business: Priorities List)



Priorities 02.26.pdf