

Windsor United Church of Christ Council Minutes,
April 16, 2026

Present: Dwight Mueller, Caitlin Mountford, Pastor Tammy Martens, Lori Newlun, Luann Adams, Shane Schweppe, Jeanne Wendtland, Gene Nader, Joan Rice

1. Opening Devotional: Pastor Tammy Martens
2. Minutes of the March 10 meeting were approved as submitted.
3. Treasurer's Report: Dwight shared that the operating budget is at \$50,000, including the \$30,000 that was carried over from last year. An unknown for this year is what will be received in unpledged offerings, as the estimate for this was high due to some people withholding pledges, but continuing to give. The refinancing process has been completed.
4. Moderator's Report: Covered later
5. Pastor's Report: Tammy shared Celebrations, Looking Ahead and Wonderings:
 - Celebrations include the Confirmation program and worship, Maundy Thursday supper and worship, the book study and attending the Palm Sunday Path at the Capitol.
 - Looking ahead includes Mission and Vision Guided Process starting the week of April 20, New Member Classes starting on April 26, time off May 11-26, Sunday School celebration on May 31 and the beginning of the summer schedule with worship at 9:00 on June 7.
 - Wonderings: How to increase awareness of our UCC identity, how to build community with guests and new members including confirmands and their families, how to stay connected through the summer and the need for an adult education team.
6. Music Report: David is on vacation so no report was available.
7. Old Business
 - Luann has agreed to lead a subcommittee to gather information concerning baptism and moderator participation on the search committee. The committee will bring input to the Council for review. Aaron Lisowe will talk with youth to get their input.
 - Lori has created a draft of a Sabbatical Leave Policy and other updates to the Personnel Policy.
 - David Schipper's sabbatical plans were discussed. He is due for 3 months of sabbatical, but has suggested that he take 6 weeks this summer and 6 weeks next summer.

Gene moved that David's 6-week sabbatical in the summer of 2026 be approved. Joan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

8. New Business

- The need for a financial strategy was discussed, including planned giving. As many of our largest donors are over 70, we need to look at other potential revenue streams including renting part of our space to non-profits. Paying down the mortgage was also discussed. Using 5th Sunday giving for this purpose was discussed.
- Ten opportunities for participating in Mission and Vision discussions have been made available. Tammy has prepared guided questions.
- Discussion took place on giving for the remaining three 5th Sundays-particularly for the next one in May. Jeanne Wendtland suggested we use the May 5th Sunday giving toward the principal on the mortgage. Jeanne also stated she would match up to \$10,000 in honor of her father. The Council approved using the May 5th Sunday for the principal on the mortgage with the match proposed by Jeanne.

9. Committee Reports

- Board of Trustees: Spring clean-up will be on May 2. They are discussing creating a new members interests/talents survey. Jeanne is organizing keys for the building.
- Stewardship: There was no new information to report.
- Christian Education: The Palm Sunday intergenerational activities were a success. Caitlin is working with Missions to encourage confirmands engagement. The Cry Room is now a Wiggle Room with toys. A large bulletin board has been ordered to display what's going on in Sunday School They will work with CL for the end of Sunday School celebration.
- Worship: Lori reported that there were 192 worshipers on Easter and 200 on Confirmation Sunday. There will be an outdoor service this summer. The Safety workgroup did a walk-around the building, inside and out. They are putting together a strategic plan. There is a need to form a standing safety team.
- Missions: They will be distributing door hangers to promote the Chicken and Biscuit dinner. They plan to promote participation in the Norski Nibbles program which distributes food in parks over the summer. They may help create backpacks with school supplies for youth who need them.
- Congregational Life: Lenten events went well. They are working on ideas to promote fellowship, including a cook-out, hikes and the annual Octopi outing.

10. Closing Prayer: The Lord's Prayer

Next meeting: May 12, 2026

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Rice