Windsor United Church of Christ Council Minutes,
December 16, 2025

Present: Dwight Mueller, Caitlin Mountford, Pastor Tammy Martens, Lori Newlun, Nancy Nader, Mat Stack, David Schipper, Luann Adams, Shane Schweppe, Joan Rice
Guest: Jeanne Wendtland

1. Opening Devotional: Pastor Tammy Martens

2. Minutes of the November 18 meeting were approved as submitted.

3. Treasurer's Report: Income is approximately $15,000 above the expected amount. Expenses are about $15,000 less than expected. We do, however, need a new furnace and the elevator needs work.

4. Moderator's Report: Covered later in the meeting

5. Pastor's Report:

    - Tammy reported that classes with the Young Theologians (formerly known as the Youth Class) are going well. They are highly engaged.
    - The Advent puzzle has been completed. It was a fun activity with good fellowship.
    - Approximately 20 responses were received from Tammy's question "What do you long to hear during Advent?" The general theme was that people are looking for a message of hope.
    - Sunday's intergenerational skit was a big success. About 50 people attended.

6. Music:

    - David reported that December is a busy time with music. Jon Whitcomb, Christina Metzger and David performed Irish music at Parkside and Oakwood and at Sunday services. It has been well-received.
    - The women's choir and chimes choir have performed beautifully.
    - Last Sunday's live streamed service was viewed by 20 people, with a total of 40 views on average.

7. Old Business

        - The capitalization of committees in the Constitution was discussed.

Lori moved that we keep the capitalizations that Luann used in the reorganization of the constitution. Nancy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

        - Council received and reviewed a request concerning language changes made at the last annual meeting regarding the requirement of baptism for membership. No prior notice as given for this change. The letter indicates that according to Robert's Rules, this change is therefore null and void. The congregation voted in favor of this change.

Lori moved that further discussion is necessary and that this issue be tabled until next year. Mat seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- The same congregant also expressed concern that the decision to exclude the Moderator from the Search Committee was also null and void because advance notice was not given prior to the annual meeting.

Luann moved that the wording to exclude the Moderator from the Search Committee has been in the Constitution long enough that it is valid. Mat seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- Luann's revisions to the Constitution have been finalized. Dwight will send it out to the congregation in advance of the annual meeting.
- Dwight shared a Stewardship update. Thus far, we have received 48 pledges for 2026, totaling $242,000. Last year, we received 68 or 69 pledges, totaling $318,000. Expenses will also increase next year due to the addition of the Christian Education Coordinator position, additional funding for air conditioning and furnace replacement and refinancing the mortgage. Follow-up with those who have not pledged was discussed.
- Annual reports are due on December 29.

8. New Business
    - Joan Rice gave a report on the progress of the Nominating Committee.
    - Mission and vision work will create a plan for 2026.
    - There was discussion on developing a Congregational Covenant of Behavior in 2026.

Committee Reports

- Board of Trustees: Mortgage refinancing will occur in March. Mat is retiring from the position of Chair, but will continue on the Board through the refinancing process. In February, we will need a motion to borrow money from one of two lenders and to authorize signers. Counter offers may make negotiation of rates possible. Mat also reported that the proposed budget for 2026 is $400,000. Art's Electric will replace the furnace next week.
- Stewardship: The 5th Sunday offering raised approximately enough to cover the cost of iPads for the musicians.
- Missions: They are in the process for determining next steps. Shane will prepare a slide to support donations for retired ministers.
- Worship: Shane will be meeting with Tammy and Caitlin to discuss a direction.
- Christian Education: Caitlin reported the multigenerational skit went well. All students participated. The lessons and curriculum are going well. There is an average of 10 students a week. We need to reach out to the community to build the program. There will be no Sunday School for the next two weeks.
- Congregational Life: Nancy reported that the food drive was a success. They provided cake at the conclusion of the Stewardship campaign and a brunch after the Advent launch.

9. Closing Prayer: The Lord's Prayer

Next meeting: January 13, 2026

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Rice