Windsor United Church of Christ Council Minutes,
August 19, 2025

Present: Dwight Mueller, Caitlin Mountford, Shane Schweppe, Pastor Tammy Martens, Lori Newlun, Luann Adams, David Schipper, Joan Rice
Guest: Jeanne Wentland

1. Opening Devotional: Pastor Tammy Martens

2. Minutes of the July 8 meeting were approved as submitted.

3. Treasurer's Report: Dwight shared the June Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statements. The Balance Sheet reported the following balances: Operating Budget $42,677, Memorial Funds $118,012, Scholarship Savings $53,292, Savings Reserve Funds $55,630.

4. Moderator's Report:

   - Dwight reported that Jon Whitcomb has resigned as Technology Chair. Roles and responsibilities need to be clarified. Mat Sutherland has also resigned from the committee.
   - The Council agenda for August was sent out to all members of the congregation.
   - The office has been hit by spam messages phishing for member information.
   - The need for a printed directory was discussed.

5. Pastor's Report:

   - Tammy reported that staff reflections have been completed. She shared that there is good synergy with the team. All have great skills that are well-suited to their responsibilities.
   - There has been great need for pastoral care. She has done 12 visits in the past month.
   - Social gatherings throughout the summer have been very successful.
   - Demographics of the area are available from the Association of Religion Data Archives. This information may be useful in thinking about outreach.
   - Tammy's wonderings: before thinking developing a statement of Mission and Vision, we need an understanding of how we view the bible. There are varying understandings in our congregation. She distributed a handout entitled Reading the Bible Again for the First Time.

6. Music
   - David is exploring the use of iPads for musicians. Two have been purchased and used successfully in worship. The were well-received by the musicians. He would like to purchase 5 more refurbished iPads, page turner pedals and cases for a total cost of around $1,960.

Lori moved that the Council approve spending the funds to buy iPads and accessories now and recouping the funds with the 5th Sunday offering in November. Shane seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- David reported that services are currently being streamed to the website. They will also be added to Facebook Live and YouTube.
- David is exploring the option of hiring someone who could play guitar and sing for occasional services.

7. Old Business

    - There was discussion on moving to one service. In May, a survey was sent out with an explanation of why it was being proposed. In mid-July a letter was sent with an update on what the Council is considering (8:45 Sunday School followed by the worship service at 10:00)

Lori moved that move to one service, with Sunday School at 8:45 and worship at 10:00 starting September 7 and that the summer schedule remain the same. Shane seconded the motion. Motion carried.

    - Updates to the Constitution were discussed. Luann has reorganized section D. Additional revisions were proposed. Sections F and G need to be reorganized.

8. New Business

    - The 2026 budget was discussed. Mat wasn't able to be here, but Jeanne Wentland reported that she has prepared a spreadsheet with details from 2 mortgage companies compared. They are close to getting proposals from them. Joe Bauer is taking the lead on the 2026 budget and will share it with the congregation on September 28.
    - A letter received from Bill Ridgely was discussed. The purpose of Bill's letter was to express his opinion that the vote to add the words "or hope to be baptized" to the constitution as a requirement for membership, was invalid because the proposal was not announced prior to the annual meeting. He also stated his belief that since Baptism is a sacrament, it should be a requirement for membership.

Lori moved that the discussion on baptism as a requirement for membership be tabled. Luann seconded the motion. Motion carried.

    - Discussion of the policy for constitutional changes will continue next month.
    - Tammy discussed her own experience with Personnel Reflections. This is a new process for pastors here. Carol wrote up a summary of Tammy's reflections which Tammy will share with Council.

9. Committee Reports

    - Board of Trustees
    - Stewardship: Dreaming God's Dream is the theme for this year's Stewardship Campaign. Some videos may be prepared to show what work is being done. Dwight mentioned Andrew Warner regarding Legacy Giving.
    - Worship: The outdoor service with brunch and games was well attended. There will be a baptism next Sunday and Congregational Life will provide cake and beverages. On Sept 7, Sunday School will begin. Refreshments will be provided.

- Technology:
- Missions: The Norski Nibbles program needs one more person to make sandwiches. They are working on creating flyers to distribute in advance of the Fall Festival. Guests will receive $1 off their meal if the bring in the flyer.
- Christian Education: The games following the outdoor service were fun. The Craft a Lesson gathering was productive. Registration for Sunday School is open online. There will be a parent meeting next Sunday. Confirmation will be on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month.
- Congregational Life:

10. Closing Prayer: The Lord's Prayer

Next meeting: September 9, 2025

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Rice

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