

Minutes for Council Meeting – February 11, 2026

Meeting called to order at 6:31 pm.

Opening Prayer – Pr. Andrew

Roll Call, Introductions and Sharing

Present: Paul Carstens, Al Edgar, Wayne Geschwindt, Dan Kilpela, Terry Langenberg (President), Mark Petrie (Secretary), Marina Shinkarenko, Darren Smith, Lesley Williams, Adrienne Wolf, Pr. Andrew, Pr. Molly

Absent: Jean Reynolds, Laura Tripp

Approval of Agenda

Pr. Andrew requested adding accepting the recently received reports of the Endowment and Fellowship Committees, and three items were added under new business: Finance Committee (Pr. Andrew); Request to use the sanctuary (Terry); Community Meal (Al).

Moved and seconded to approve as amended. Approved.

Approval of January 21, 2026 minutes

Moved and seconded to approve. Approved.

Approval of February 8, 2026 Annual Meeting minutes

Not yet published; tabled to March meeting.

Actions requested from Council:

1. Finance Report. None – the committee has not met yet this month.
2. Pastors' report

Moved and seconded to accept the report as presented. Approved.

3. Endowment Committee and Fellowship Committee Reports

Moved and seconded to accept the reports as presented. Approved.

Old Business

None.

New Business

1. Yesterday's Special Council Meeting/Pr. Molly's Exit Interview, with Bishop Finegan attending. No minutes were recorded as only one item of business was conducted: an agreement for interim Associate Pastoral services with Pr. Steve Solberg as follows: 10 hours per week at an annual salary of \$12,500, plus mileage, and plus pulpit supplies. Pr. Andrew will meet with Pr. Solberg on Thursday to discuss workload/schedule, etc.

Moved and seconded to approve the contract with Pr. Steve Solberg for interim pastoral ministry in the role of associate pastor, per the terms of the agreement presented (see the Interim Pastor Agreement). Approved.

2. Annual Meeting Review. Several congregation members commented that they liked having the meeting in the sanctuary as opposed to Magnusen Hall: they were able to hear the proceedings much better, and they liked the earlier start and end times of the meeting without the delay of a luncheon before.

3. Welcome new council members. Welcome Adrienne, Lesley, and Paul. And, thank you for your service, Ruth Robb!

4. Re/election of officers.

PRESIDENT: Al and Mark both offered to serve (Terry being term-limited). The council accepted Pr. Molly's suggestion that the candidate receiving fewer votes be named Vice-president. A ballot was conducted and Pr. Molly announced the results: Mark Petrie is elected President, and Al Edgar is elected Vice-President.

SECRETARY: Dan offered to serve and was unopposed. Elected by unanimous assent.

5. Finance Committee. Pr. Andrew reported that the constitution states the committee shall include an appointed council member (a 1-year term). No volunteers were forthcoming. Moved and seconded to have Pr. Andrew to ask Jean if she would serve. Approved.

6. Request to use the sanctuary. Terry shared an email he received requesting the council consider making the sanctuary available on Friday, June 19 for a Pine Mountain Music Festival (PMMF) concert by a piano trio. Pr. Molly advised the sanctuary is available that date. Concern was raised because PMMF typically charges for admission. The council agreed that Pr. Andrew will talk with the requester (a congregation member affiliated with PMMF) about the concern, and the possibility of instead asking for fee will donations.

7. Community meal. Al's friend tells him their church asks for donations at their community meal, and asks if Messiah might do the same. Several felt this would not fit with the spirit of our meals. This led to a discussion about the budget and how to shrink the large deficit. How do we grow income? Should the Stewardship Committee become more active? What guidance should the council provide them, and how does that look? Does Messiah work to grow our membership?

Wrap-up: an agenda item for March will be discussing a council retreat/strategic planning session(s).

Adjourn

Moved and seconded to adjourn. Approved. Adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Close with Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting Date – March 18, 2026 at 7:00 pm (NOTE the different starting time).

Executive committee will meet March 11, 2026 at 10:30 am.

Respectfully submitted by Mark Petrie