

**Desert Cross Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Minutes  
March 16, 2026**

Minutes taken by Gail Dempsey  
Meeting start time: 7:02 PM  
Meeting end time: 8:25 PM

**Attendees:**

<b>Council – Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Pastors/Staff - Present</b>
Brent Borchers	Vicki English	Pr. Andrea Cain
Anna Sion	Marie Ihlefeld	Pr. Thadd Book
Tony Tainter		Doug Bjotvedt
Sue Eberle		
MaryBeth LaMont		
Mark Farrell		
Mari Johnson		
Gail Dempsey		

**Devotions:** Marie Ihlefeld (read by Anna Sion)

**Approval of March Agenda**

- **First:** Tony Tainter
- **Second:** Mari Johnson
- **Unanimously Approved – Motion Carried**

**Approval of February Minutes** (with change to page 2 – Financial Committee Report, third bullet. Debt “servicing” should be changed to “service”).

- **First:** Tony Tainter
- **Second:** Mari Johnson
- **Unanimously Approved – Motion Carried**

## **Team Updates:**

### **1. Director of Operations and Property Report: Doug Bjotvedt**

- **Tempe Land Sale:** Property still in escrow and Doug has requested update. He believes it will close in three weeks.

### **2. Financial Committee Report: Brent Borchers**

- General fund giving is behind by 27K but could be a catch-up situation in the next few months. But at present, we are operating at a loss.
- Expenses are high right now due to multiple projects. Also, a large amount of money was paid for maintenance/upgrades for the Memorial Garden.
- Tool for reporting data (page 3) is not working as it should, which Brent will follow up with Doug.
- Tony had a concern about the Gilbert Parking lot fundraiser of 30K, while only 18K was spent. Where is this documented?
- Gilbert Campus mortgage is due for a reset in September through ELCA's Mission Investment Fund (MIF). The finance committee should be notified 45 days prior to the reset.
- There are a total of five weekly offering tellers, so far. More potential tellers are being collected by the Financial Committee.
- Attendance numbers are holding and doing well.

#### **Vote to approve Financial Report:**

- **First:** Sue Eberle
- **Second:** Tony Tainter
- **Unanimously Approved – Motion Carried**

### **3. President's Report: MaryBeth LaMont**

- There was good attendance at the annual meeting in February. Gilbert Refresh phases one and two were approved.
- Finishing Cookbooks – 10% profit goes to Outreach

#### 4. Pastor Reports:

- **Pr. Andrea**

- Lent is Lentening! Soup suppers and fellowship are all wonderful.
- New Membership class upcoming
- Synod Spring gathering in Tempe last Saturday was successful
- Election meeting is Sunday, 4/26 @ 1PM. Nomination committee is hard at work looking for nominees.
- Denise Viker is recovering. Keep her and husband, Darwin, in prayers.

- **Pr. Thadd**

- Great worship service Sunday 3/15 with lots of visitors and beautiful music from the Sanctuary Choir.
- First Communion coming up Maundy Thursday.
- Lots of baptisms, three on Palm Sunday.
- Gilbert Prayer team sponsoring “open space to pray” on 4/4 from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. (Gilbert location)

5. **Endowment:** MaryBeth LaMont      Nothing to report

6. **Gilbert Chamber Report:** Mari Johnson/Tony Tainter

- Easter Egg Hunt will take place on 3/29 after the Worship service.
- Hymn Sing went very well, including a very nice dinner.
- After many questions regarding “rules” for different types of fundraising, **Anna Sion** made a motion that “**all remaining funds for the Gilbert Refresh Project shall be raised through a Capital Campaign and the Capital Expense fund match.**”

**Vote to Approve Motion:**

- **First: Anna Sion**
- **Second: Brent Borchers**
- **Unanimously Approved – Motion Carried**

**7. Stewardship:** Pr. Thadd

- Meeting is scheduled at the end of the month for fall planning.

**8. Project Updates:** MaryBeth LaMont

- With \$7,000.00 in the Refresh fund, the project can move forward.

**9. Program (Staff) Reports/Questions:** No questions

**10. Old Business:** MaryBeth LaMont

- 3/25 Lent – Council sponsors soup dinner. Passed around sign-up sheet for food items.
- Review Refresh communication w/pledge card, from Vicki English.

**11. New Business:** MaryBeth LaMont

- Anna Scion heading up the Nominating committee and there are lots of volunteers!
- Election Meeting is 4/26 @ 1:00 p.m.

**Prayer Concerns & Praises were shared**

**Closing Prayer:** Pr. Thadd

**Adjournment:**

- **First:** Tony Tainter
- **Second:** Anna Scion
- **Unanimously Approved – Motion Carried**