

**Desert Cross Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
August 17, 2026**

Minutes taken by: Marie Ihlefeld

Meeting start time: 7:05 PM

Meeting end time: 8:02 PM

Attendees:

Council – Present	Absent	Pastors/Staff - Present
Gail Dempsey	Pr. Andrea Cain	Pr. Thadd Book
Vicki English	Tony Tainter	Doug Bjotvedt
Marie Ihlefeld	Sue Smith	
Sharon Bucher	Sue Eberle	
MaryBeth LaMont		
Mark Farrell		
Mari Johnson		

Devotions: MaryBeth LaMont

Approval of August Agenda:

- **First:** Sharon Bucher
- **Second:** Gail Dempsey
- **Unanimously Approved – Motion Carried**

Approval of July Minutes

- **First:** Sharon Bucher
- **Second:** Gail Dempsey
- **Unanimously Approved – Motion Carried**

Team Updates:

1. Director of Operations and Property Report Doug Bjotvedt

- July YTD Revenue vs expenses and adjusted YTD revenue vs. expenses are in the red. Expected due to high summer operational expenses & less general fund donations.

- New software giving errors with numbers not populating – had to adjust manually. Deanna is working with the company to fix the software.
- April and May show payroll differences due to 3rd payroll in the month of May.
- Continuing Ed expenses hit in July & Doug double checking. April has a bump in payroll expenses likely due to extra Easter services musician's pay.
- The Refresh Account is currently \$76,008.63. Refresh work was expected to start around mid-August – not yet started.

2. Financial Committee Report: Sharon Bucher

- **Treasurers' Report:** The Finance Team does not like borrowing against restricted accounts. Not ready to ask for money now, but it would be nice to have 150-300K in an operating reserve fund. The Finance Team does not like seeing Red in the Financial Report.
- **The Land Sale is in progress.** MaryBeth signed the paperwork Thursday. No money yet, but funding could happen as early as tomorrow. No objections to anything sent in the last 10 days, so sale should complete. After the land sale money pays off the A/C loan of around \$46,000 & 10% goes to mission/outreach, there should be about \$175,000 left for the Capital Expense Fund. An investment account should be set up & need recommendations. Marybeth will discuss with Pastors.

Vote to Approve Financial Report:

- **First:** Mari Johnson
- **Second:** Vicki English
- **Unanimously Approved – Motion Carried**

3. President's Report MaryBeth

- Endowment Approvals were added to last month's minutes.
- Marybeth is creating a council corner on the Weekly Eblast with any financial updates from Sharon. Summary of finances and what council is doing.

4. Team Report Questions (Endowment/Gilbert Chamber/Stewardship)

- Endowment covered & nothing new for Stewardship
- **Gilbert Chamber:**
 - Chamber is hosting I-help August 26th
 - Golf Tournament is September 12th
 - Holiday Market is November 14th – flyer is coming out for the weekend
 - Ministry Moments – Rosemary will speak about Education in August & Dana will speak about Hospitality in October.

5. Pastor Reports:

- **Pr. Thadd:**
 - The Holiday Market Team & planning is going well.

- Great Diamondbacks game against the Dodgers two Fridays ago – thanks to Tom Rewolinski for setting it up. Fun game – the Diamondbacks won! Great time together with church members.
- Faith Formation planning is ongoing. Working on getting all the teachers back & ordering curriculum for less than a month away. Sunday school starts September 13th – Sunday after Labor Day Weekend.
- Trunk or Treat is scheduled for October 24th.
- Refresh is meeting to confirm the order of the work to be done and seeking volunteers. Start with the cross & then the ceiling & getting professionals for drywall. Getting started with \$76,000.
- Keziah, our Gilbert worship leader, moved at the end of June. Great thanks to those filling in for worship - Christine Soll, Marta Hatch. Also, Pat Mcleave filled in last Sunday. A couple good candidates & hope to find someone soon. Exciting for Gilbert.

6. Project Updates: MaryBeth

- **Tempe Parking Lot:** The Parking lot committee is set. Brent Borchers and Vicki English are co-chairs with Pastor Andrea, Doug Bjotvedt, Gail Dempsey, Mark Farrell, and Doug LaMont completing the committee.

7. Staff Reports/Questions: No questions

8. Old Business: MaryBeth/Vicki English

- **Cookbook** – The cookbook is being edited, not yet printing. It should be printed & ready to sell at the Holiday Market in Gilbert
- **Gilbert Holiday Market Update:** 20 vendors are already lined up & the flyer goes out this weekend. No deadline for vendors to sign up on the flyer. An announcement will be made Saturday and Sunday in Tempe. Youth group will be selling food (hamburgers, hotdogs, & chips) for their fundraiser to go to the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering.

9. New Business: MaryBeth

- **Budget Timeline for 2026**
 - October 12th (Monday) Executive Council meeting 6pm in Tempe (due to conflict with Finance Team meeting, this meeting is moved to **Tuesday October 13th**)
 - October 19th (Monday) Regular Council Meeting (Gilbert)
 - November 2nd (Monday) Special Council - Budget preparation/review (Tempe)
 - November 16th (Monday) Regular Council Meeting – Budget Approval (Tempe)
 - December 6th (Sunday) DCLC Congregational Budget Meeting @ 1pm in Tempe

Vote to Approve 2026 Budget Schedule:

- **First:** Gail Dempsey
 - **Second:** Mari Johnson
 - **Unanimously Approved – Motion Carried**
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- **Hymnals:** Carolyn is interested in getting hymnals in Gilbert. Do we have any in storage? Does Tempe also need hymnals? Hymnals run \$26.50 each. Maybe a request to Endowment? Need to discuss how many are needed.

Prayer Concerns & Praises were shared

Closing Prayer: Pr. Thadd

Adjournment:

- **First:** Mari Johnson
- **Second:** Gail Dempsey
- **Unanimously Approved**