

Council Minutes, May 2025
Plymouth Congregational Church – United Church of Christ
Tuesday, May 27, 2025

1. Call to Order – Sonia Jordan – Immediate Past Moderator
Sonia called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

Voting Members Present:

Sonia Jordan – Immediate-Past Moderator
Stephan Carttar – Treasurer
Doug Eason – At Large Member
David Treviño – At Large Member
Norine Spears – At Large Member
Jeanne Fridell – At Large Member
Jeff Eriksen – At Large Member

Voting Members Not Present:

Rich Bireta – Moderator
Jenny O'Brien – Moderator Elect
Christi Houston – At Large Member

Ex Officio Members Not Present

Valerie Miller-Coleman – Senior Pastor
Caroline Lawson Dean – Associate Pastor

Non-Voting Members Present

Larissa Long – Clerk
Katy Anderson – Deputy Treasurer

Others Present:

Kathy Bowen – Music & Fine Arts Chair
Jaron Asher – Director of Operations

2. Invocation – Sonia Jordan
Sonia led attendees in prayer.
3. Consent Agenda
 - 3.1 Approve Agenda
 - 3.2 Approve minutes from April Council Meeting
 - 3.3 Receive Financial Reports

Doug moved to approve the Consent Agenda; Norine seconded; motion approved unanimously.

4. Church Treasurer's Report – Stephen Carttar, Treasurer
 - 4.1 Financial Update
Through April, we are 33% of the way through the year; have received 42% of projected annual income and have spent 34% of projected annual expenses.

Stephen added the following:

- At the end of March 31, 2025 endowed funds totaled \$2,267,846, an increase of \$14,934.
 - Gifts – \$100,000
 - Gain on shares sold - \$24,037
 - Dividends and interest received- \$11,410

- 2025 distribution to Plymouth Operating Budget (\$77,473)
- Decrease in market value - \$(43,040)
- Cash flow will be impacted by \$163,000 in coming months for:
 - Flat roof over North Church - \$115,000
 - Mayflower Room - \$25,000
 - LED lighting - \$15,000
 - Sanctuary roof - \$8,000
- Invested in CDARs (Certificate of Deposit Account Registry Service).
 - Silver Lake - \$200k for 1 year at 3.8%
 - InTrust - \$300k for 1 year at 3.4%
- Enter In Commitments following Recommitment Sunday- \$3,348,703
 - 93 responses
 - 4 new commitments - \$5,500
 - 3 reductions - \$1,352

Doug asked if tax credits had been received. Stephen said he had no information regarding the tax credit submissions.

5. Old Business

5.1 Alternate Site Logistics – Rich Bireta provided the following written information:

As mentioned last month, we'll be forming a committee to collect issues and recommend accommodations and changes to Sunday worship during sanctuary remodeling. Rich has not year heard from all board chairs as to their recommendation for a member of their board to serve on this committee.

Sonia suggested Council members contact their board liaisons and ask if names have been submitted. She also reminded members that the June Council meeting will include a planning and coordinating session with board chairs.

6. New Business

6.1 Approval to use Plymouth banner at Pride Party. The Open and Affirming Committee has requested Church Council's approval to use the Church's banner at the city's Pride Party in South Park in June.

There being no discussion regarding the request for approval, Jeff moved to approve use of the Plymouth banner at the Pride Party; Stephen seconded; motion approved unanimously.

7. Open Forum

Kathy said Kim received an invitation for the choir to participate in a performance of "CREATION" in London in June, 2026 similar to the "Magnificat" experience in New York City this year. Choir members will discuss in the coming weeks.

Jaron said a part time janitor has been hired and the contract with the janitorial service terminated as of June 1. Stephen asked about the establishment of procedures. Jaron said staff procedures have been prepared.

8. Moderator's Report – Rich Bireta provided the following written information:

Organ/Sanctuary Project Update – Consensus at the Project Management Committee is coalescing around a design. There is an information table in the Mayflower Room each Sunday (since May 11). This version uses ramps to the chancel from the floor and retains the south stairs to the choir loft and southwest door from the sanctuary. A review session was conducted with the choir on May 1 and with the congregation between

services on May 4. Final approval of a design is anticipated to come before the Church Council in June pending a recommendation from the Project Management Committee.

Building the 2026 Budget – Please refer to the attachment to the agenda for a planned schedule of budget hearings at Church Council meetings this fall to prepare for crafting the 2026 operating budget.

Doug said the PMC had coalesced around the choir being in the loft, with a lift. They are currently working to determine acceptable step and ramp dimensions.

Referencing the budget hearing schedule prepared by Rich, Sonia said if Council members had suggestions and/or concerns they should reach out to him. Stephen added that Council will be doing what Stewardship did in prior years, and Rich wanted to let them know how the process would proceed.

9. Pastor's Report – Sonia referenced Valerie's written report (attached).

10. Adjournment and Lord's Prayer

Doug moved to adjourn the meeting; Norine seconded; motion approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

11. Important Future Dates:

Next Council Meeting: June 24, 2025 at 6:30 pm

Future Council Meeting Dates:

August 26, 2025; September 23, 2025; October 28, 2025; November 18, 2025; December 16, 2025; January 7 and January 20, 2026.