

Casas Adobes Congregational Church, UCC, ONA

Council Minutes: May 19, 2026

Recorded by: Pat Brown, Clerk with assistance by Owen Clymer

Called to Order: 4:01 pm by Moderator Owen Clymer

Attendance: Quorum present via online Zoom format

Attendees: Dave Brown, Pat Brown, Pastor Michael Bush, Owen Clymer, Hank Dimlich, Jean-Marie Huisjen, Amy Lincoln, Gypsy Lyle, Lori Powers, Jane Spande, Bobby Sutherland, Wes Ward and Mike Wilson

Pre-meeting Reports: Council Meeting Minutes April, MJAM, MoS, MoW, MPR, Reflection, SWC Annual Meeting 2026 Report, Treasurer/Financial Reports

Owen called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm with a welcome to all, especially to Gypsy Lyle who attended the SW Conference. Wes opened the meeting in prayer.

Council Reflection: Pastor Michael led the discussion on the Reflection from John 7: 37-39. Questions discussed: Questions for Reflection

1. Looking at the teaching from John 7, what is the purpose of the Spirit in the lives of Jesus followers?
2. What helps you best connect with the Spirit?

Consent Agenda: The April church Council Minutes were approved.

Moderator's Report: Owen reported:

- Anne has shared expenses to date for Ministries; please review those and look for any changes needed for next year's budget.
- A policy for addressing needs of people who may have mental health issues exists. Revision may be necessary to assure that phone numbers for assistance to the staff are updated.
- FARM team is working on developing formal investment policies.

Treasurer/Finance Report: Jean-Marie reported that an error in the March report on the surplus was found and corrected. In April the surplus is \$29,525. The income has been less than anticipated, but the expenses are holding. The April investment account was down 0.7%. There was a \$10,000 withdrawal from the reserve account to pay for the automatic door openers and the new water fountain. Owen asked if the surplus would decrease in the coming year, and Jean-Marie replied that it would.

Items for Council Discussion:

- Fall Calendar: Owen verified the fall calendar, includes: Sunday, October 11-CoB drive; Friday to Sunday, October 16, 17, 18-Women's Retreat; October-Preliminary Budget and Beginning of Stewardship Drive; Sunday, October 25-Ministry Fair; November Stewardship Drive continues; Monday through Thursday, November 2 through 5-Rummage Sale Set-up; Friday, Saturday, November 6 and 7-Rummage Sale. Additionally, there will be an ICS Peanut Butter Party and School Supply Drive.

Items for Council Information:

- Owen noted that his SW Conference Report was emailed to Council. Additional comments included:
 1. The Conference did a good job of having relevant speakers to address Southwest and Border issues.
 2. The business meeting was "interesting." The budget was approved despite the Treasurer being unable to speak to line items due to change of accounting programs. One amendment was approved that provided for the salary of a temporary position to shepherd the growth of youth and college programs in the church. Albuquerque has a strong program at UNM, which will serve as a model. The Conference is balancing the deficit budget on earnings from investments. Owen was proud that our church manages money with care to provide continued growth.

- Gypsy reported on her experience at the SW Conference. She participated through Zoom, which was well facilitated. She added that the Conference increased the amount they give to national. She also said that she realized how little she knows of the UCC general organization structure. She suggested that CAUCC offer meetings to educate the congregation on how the local and national UCC is organized.
- Pastor Michael added that Pastor John was instrumental in improving the Zoom/online inclusion of participants. He said that Randy Mayer's Good Shepherd UCC Church, which hosted the Conference, has a focus on border issues with contacts for speakers who presented at the Conference. Pastor Michael commented that he was also uncomfortable with the Conference budget process.
- New slogans for UCC were developed by the national marketing team, which focused on who we are not, instead of who we are: No Judgement, No Hierarchy, No Kidding.
- Lori suggested that Casas Adobes have a sign-off form on the use of rented space that would include a section for the third party to sign off acknowledging an understanding of the safety provisions and protocols for locking up. Is there a checklist for all the tasks to open up/lock up? Lori will reach out to Ministry of Physical Resources (Wes Ward) and the Church Administrator to review protocols. Jean-Marie Huisjen also commented that Music Committee should be engaged in this situation since the use of the facility by Kindred Chorus overlaps into the Choir practice room and the kitchen.
- Discussion led by Mike Wilson to review the calendar for Stewardship. Stewardship banners will go up October 19th. Commitment Sunday is November 15th. No other issues reported.
- Other discussions: Pastor Michael announced that there are several people who are interested in formally joining as Partners in Ministry before the Fall membership classes resume. He has scheduled these people to join in membership on Sunday, June 28th

Closing Prayer: Bobby Sutherland gave a beautiful closing prayer in a manner invoking appreciation for Native American culture.

Adjournment: Wes Ward motioned to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded. Meeting adjourned at 5:08 pm.