

Casas Adobes Congregational Church, UCC, ONA

Council Minutes: April 21, 2026

Recorded by: Pat Brown, Clerk

Called to Order: 4:00 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, Lori Powers, Jane Spande, Bobby Sutherland, Wes Ward and Mike Wilson.

Pre-meeting Reports: March Council Meeting Minutes, MJAM, MoS, MoW, MPR, Treasurer/Financial Reports, and Reflection

Owen called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm with a welcome to all. He opened the meeting in prayer.

Council Reflection: Pastor Michael led the discussion on the Reflection from John 20 which Amy read. Discussion was around the question: "What might have been lost in losing the idea of resurrection connecting with this world and with the physical being?"

Consent Agenda: The March Council Minutes were approved.

Moderator's Report: Owen reported that he will be attending the Southwest Conference meeting this week via Zoom. Gypsy Lyle will also be attending via Zoom, and Susan Somerfeld will attend in Sahuarita. There are no resolutions from the Conference to the Synod this year. The budget only arrived this week for review. Designated funds are included in the budget for Programs for Youth, Youth Program Development and activities. Pastor Michael will attend on Friday. Some Compassion on the Border members will be attending with a table set up to sell items in support of border activities.

Treasurer/Finance Report: Jean-Marie reported that year-to-date income falls short of the \$180,000 in the budget, currently at \$173,000. However, expenses are at \$141,000 with the budget of \$149,000. Most of the reduction in expenses appear to be from utilities. Jean-Marie is preparing a report on trends in the budget over the last few years. Investments in March of this year were down 2.6% reflecting the market being affected by the Iran War and oil issues. Currently, the church has \$1.9 million in investments, which FARM is monitoring. Hank inquired as to who manages investments. RW Baird Co. has managed investments for several years. Mike Wilson added that the budget appears to be adjusted to the season of the year.

Items for Council Discussion

1. **Kindred Chorus:** Pastor Michael mentioned that Lori Powers is involved in the Kindred Chorus, which practices at the church. Lori invited anyone to join. They currently have approximately 20 members. On Sunday, May 17th at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary, Kindred Chorus will present a short program followed by a reception.
2. **Legacy Fund Distribution Request:** The Personnel Committee requested approximately \$12,500 in support for training a part-time assistant to Anne. The Legacy Team recommends approval of the request. It is a one-year proposal for 17 hours/week [actual is 16 hrs per week]. The Legacy Fund Budget allows for \$26,000 to be allocated to requests. Jean-Marie reviewed the concerns that the Legacy Team had prior to their approval. One concern was not wanting to set a precedent for using funds for staffing. The proposal said that the position would be funded in the 2027 Budget. Another concern was whether Anne will have time to do the training, though she wants to. Jean-Marie suggested that the Personnel Committee and Council need to review staffing needs.

Owen made the motion to approve the Legacy Fund request from the Personnel Committee for \$12,512 to fund the part-time position/training of an administrative assistant. Dave seconded motion.

Discussion: Mike asked when the position would start and whether pay would be retroactive. Jean-Marie's understanding was that they were waiting for Council approval of the request and is unsure about retroactive payments. Pastor Michael explained that the request came from the recent crisis of having three office staff out of the office for a period of weeks with no back-up for Anne trained. Caroline Matthew stepped in as a volunteer and is willing to be trained in the position. Pastor Michael added that he has learned from the non-profit world that additional staffing hours are often needed when new programs are implemented. Owen added that there have been no additional requests for funds from the Legacy Fund. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Mike asked the question as to whether the Personnel Committee is a ministry, as ministries are specified in the Legacy Fund to make requests. Jean-Marie added that she hopes that requests to the Legacy Fund are considered promptly by the Council.

3. Fall Ministry Fair: Dave checked for dates in October with Anne, coming up with two options. Mike confirmed that the Stewardship packets would be distributed November 1 and that banners would be going up on October 25. The recommendation from Council, in tying the Fair with the Stewardship drive, was October 25 for the Fair. Dave will verify with Anne that the date will work on the master calendar.

Jane led the Council in the Lord's Prayer to close the meeting.

Dave moved to adjourn the meeting; Wes seconded; unanimous approval.

The meeting closed at 5:03 pm.

Next Council meeting is May 19, 2026, at 4:00 via Zoom.