

Casas Adobes Congregational Church, UCC, ONA

Council Minutes: May 20, 2025

Recorded by: Pat Brown, Clerk

Called to Order: 4:00 pm by Moderator Owen Clymer

Attendance: Quorum present via online Zoom format

Attendees: Rev. John Angiulo, Dave Brown, Pat Brown, Rev. Michael Bush, Owen Clymer, Hank Dimlich, Laura Dimlich, Amy Lincoln, Lori Powers, Jane Spande, Bobby Sutherland, Dennis Thomas, Wes Ward and Mike Wilson

Pre-meeting Reports: MCC, MJAM, MoS, MoW, MPR, Reflection, SWC Conference Proposal, Treasurer/Financial Report/Legacy Fund Report

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by Owen Clymer, who welcomed all and opened the meeting with prayer.

Reflection: Michael introduced the Reflection (distributed earlier via email) from Acts: 42-47, which Hank Dimlich read aloud. Lori Powers read the CAUCC Purpose Statement. Discussion followed around the questions of what words or phrases resonated with individuals within the Acts reading and/or within the CAUCC Purpose Statement.

Consent Agenda: The **Consent Agenda was approved unanimously**. It included:

- Minutes for the April 2025 Council meeting.
- Dissolution of the 2025 Nominating Committee.

Moderator's Report: Owen reported on the following:

- Legacy Fund Team meetings have been held with the next one scheduled for Thursday, May 29th. A proposed policy was presented to Dennis (Treasurer) and the FARM team. There have been a series of details to work out. The goal is to have a proposal before the Council at the June meeting for a vote.
- Owen attended the Southwest Conference business meeting. Electronically, there were some issues. Two resolutions were approved at the Conference:
 - Asking for an end to the Gaza War in a way that ensures all are treated with human dignity.
 - On immigration, asking that people being deported be given due process and treated with dignity.

These resolutions have been referred to the Synod. Also, the Conference approved a deficit budget, having most of their income from investment funds. Two associate Conference Ministers were elected. CAUCC has been asked to host the 2026 Southwest Conference.

Treasurer's Report: Dennis reviewed the previously distributed report. In general, the church is in good financial shape. Unpledged income is up. The monies for HVAC and front doors have been allotted.

Items for Discussion:

- Sabbathical Update: Owen reported that the send-off potluck went well. The Sabbathical Team will continue to meet monthly. Sunday, September 21st is the scheduled date for the return dinner for Pastor Michael. Amy will get together with Anne and perhaps have it catered. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday November 14th through 16th, David LaMotte will be here. Anne has made hotel reservations for him. *Tidings* has provided information about the Sabbathical.
- Update Office Storefront: Wes reported that work will be done on the doors beginning the first week of June. A subcontractor will perform electrical work. No keys will need to be changed.
- Doors to the Sanctuary: Wes said that the floor locks were difficult for some people to use. Bicycle chains will be used without losing the capability of using floor locks in the future.
- Response to Southwest Conference invitation to host 2026 Annual meeting: Owen reported that this year's conference was held in a hotel which caused difficulty with sound for Zoom participants. Pastors Michael and John discussed a possible way to try a new format for the conference. Pastor John presented his proposal (previously distributed). He mentioned that hosting the conference is a lot of work, and considering particularly the age of our congregation, hosting in the usual way would be difficult. He also emphasized the difficulties for people with impairments attending the in-person sessions and now attending electronically makes participants feel like second-hand members. CAUCC is at the forefront of developing a technology community, expanding the church's reach. Pastor John painted a picture of an electronic conference: people in their own sanctuaries connected technologically, shared music, regional dinners, workshops from different congregations, business meetings that could reach more people and encourage participation. If someone wanted to travel they could. An electronic conference could reach more rural communities. We could honor technology and move into the 21st century. Pastor Michael added that we could tell the SWC that we would be willing to host this new format for the conference, shepherded by Pastor John, and if the SWC said "no," we would not host. **Dennis moved that Pastor John approach the SWC with an offer to host the annual meeting using technology (i.e. on-line); seconded by Laura; motion carried unanimously after discussion.**

Discussion: Hank clarified that we would not host if CAUCC proposal was not accepted by SWC.

Dennis noted that CAUCC does not have the capability to host the conference in the traditional way.

Wes proposed a working group to help Pastor John that includes officers and the AV team.

Bobby added that some young people are training to do the electronics, and he would help with the technology.

In answer to Mike's question as to whether we have the technological capability, Michael responded that we already are doing it in our congregation and that Wende Gonzales manages electronics for the SW Conference and would be involved.

John added that we would be looking at shared responsibility with simultaneous worship services with other congregations, etc.

Hank asked the size of SWC: AZ, NM, El Paso; 43 churches.

Owen said that 75 members participated in this year's conference. The host church offered services, the installations, workshops. CAUCC could bring all churches together on-line for these activities.

Wes said that we would be the hub but could participate with other near-by churches.

- The church Council is hosting coffee hour after services on Sunday, June 1st. Amy asked for volunteers.
- Council Retreat: Owen offered that we need the pastor here for a retreat to discuss the direction of our mission from the Congregational Conversations, meaning that we could plan that event off-campus for September or later. As far as fellowship as a Council, Owen suggested a brunch after church in June. **Sunday, June 8th at Harvest after Learning @ 11 was agreed upon.**
- Jane brought up the issue of the ASK calendar and the Tour de Tucson past requests for donations. She asked that guidelines for MJAM be established to approve donation requests. This topic will be discussed at the June Council meeting.

Closing Prayer: offered by Michael.

Adjournment: Motion made by Dennis; seconded by Dave; unanimous approval.

Adjournment 5:13.

Next Council meeting: June 17, 4:00 pm, via Zoom.