

Casas Adobes Congregational Church, UCC, ONA

Council Minutes: June 17, 2025

Recorded by: Pat Brown, Clerk for ½ of meeting then Owen Clymer, Moderator

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

Attendance: Quorum present via online Zoom format

Attendees: Dave Brown, Pat Brown, Owen Clymer, Hank Dimlich, Laura Dimlich, Jean-Marie Huisjen, Amy Lincoln, Lori Powers, Jane Shurtleff, Jane Spande, Bobby Sutherland, Wes Ward and Mike Wilson.

Pre-meeting Reports: Gift Policy Proposed Changes, Legacy Fund Disbursement, May Minutes, MPR, MJAM, MoS, MoW, and Treasurer/Financial Report.

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 pm by Owen Clymer, who welcomed all and Amy gave the opening prayer.

Consent Agenda: The Minutes of the May meeting were accepted unanimously.

Moderator's Report: Owen reported that much of May was spent in meetings with the Legacy Team writing the policies that will be presented today for Council approval. On July 11, Dennis would like to take the policy to the FARM team in its final form.

Treasurer/Financial Report: Dennis submitted the budget analysis by email. The Church appears to be doing well.

Items for Discussion and Vote

Changes to the Legacy Fund and Gift Policies: Jean-Marie Huisjen from the Legacy Team was a special guest to add clarity to the new policy. (Policies for both the Gift/Stock and Legacy Fund Disbursement were previously distributed for review.)

Owen read the new Gift/Stock Policy and highlighted the discussions and revisions from the Team meetings. Wes added that the Church maintains management of the Fund and Jean-Marie added that it was important that family members be included in the process.

Mike made a motion to capitalize “fund” in the first sentence of the Gift/Stock policy; Wes seconded, and the Council approved unanimously.

Dave made a motion to accept the “Gifts to CAUCC / Stock donation” policy; Hank seconded; unanimous approval for acceptance.

Owen presented the new Legacy Fund Disbursement Policy. When the endowment-type fund reached a threshold for distribution (\$500,000), a policy needed to be developed for disbursement. (This fund is not part of the operating fund.) While the general purpose of the Fund has been for projects, emergency use of funds needed to be clarified in the policy. The FARM Team manages the Fund investments. The Legacy Fund Team, a part of the Ministry of Stewardship, is responsible for making recommendations for disbursement and for education and solicitation of planned giving. The disbursement of funds is now a part of the Budget process, and a money-market account is managed for distribution for projects with protection of the principal intact. Applications from Ministries may be made to the Legacy Fund for projects, and with recommendations from the Legacy Team for approval or denial, the applications will be reviewed by Council for approval.

Mike Wilson moved that the Legacy Fund Disbursement Policy be approved; Dave seconded.

Discussion: Hank asked where the money is coming from and Jean-Marie explained that the monies come from planned giving. He also asked if these funds are taxed, and Mike said that they are not. Jean-Marie said that the Legacy Fund Team currently has three people: Wes Ward, Jack Dean and herself. The Team will be asking former moderators, officers, etc. to join the team to add more people.

Mike moved for an amendment that changes item I. A. be made to state: "Ministry of Stewardship;" Jane seconded; unanimous approval.

Mike moved for an amendment that changes Item III. J. 7. be made to state: "Once a request is approved by the CAUCC Council, the Legacy Team will advise the Ministry by email and will complete a voucher for funds to be disbursed from the LF Project Fund." Jane Spande seconded, with unanimous approval.

The motion to approve the Legacy Fund Disbursement Policy with the above amendments was approved unanimously.

MPR Report: Wes previously distributed the MPR report and presented slides from that report. He reported actions taken by Ministry of Physical Resources during May/June. MPR changed landscape companies due to poor service. The cost of the new landscape company (Tucson Professional Landscape) is within the ballpark of the previous company (Chula Vista Landscape). There will be a one-time service fee to upgrade the current landscape conditions.

The project to update the office door and windows was delayed a bit but will start soon. MPR proposed to Council that a video monitor be installed outside in the courtyard. As a "Campus Info Center," it would project the activities of the church and provide a campus map. Costs associated with mounting hardware and television screen are estimated to be about \$400. MPR's proposal is to have the cost shared by all of the ministries through their budgets. Since this is a motion from MPR, no second was needed. Owen asked about the potential impact of the weather/heat on the television. Mike moved to amend MPR's motion by authorizing the expenditure from the Reserve fund. Bob seconded motion. The amendment passed. Subsequently, the motion to proceed with the Campus Info Center was approved.

Discussed scheduling the next Council meeting. Owen proposed that no meeting be held in July and the next Council meeting be held in August. Wes seconded the motion. Jane Spande asked if there were any issues that would necessitate a July meeting such as planning for the Welcome Back brunch for Pastor Michael in September. Planning for that activity is being discussed by the Sabbatical team and a catered meal is proposed. Amy recommended that any additional planning could be accomplished via e-mail. Owen stated if a meeting prior to August was needed, an ad-hoc meeting could be requested. The motion to approve scheduling the next meeting for August 19, 2025, was approved.

Items for Discussion

Jane Spande presented Ministry of Justice Advocacy and Mission's response to the DeGraff's request to solicit sponsorship for their participation in the El Tour de Tucson.

- This would potentially involve a change in church policy and a modification of the Ask Calendar.
- MJAM is not willing to determine if a non-profit outside their designated Ministry is deserving of sponsorship.

- On the Ask calendar, El Tour de Tucson is aligned with Habitat for Humanity. The Wippermanns no longer participate in the bicycle ride.
- Is a request like the DeGraff's covered by the Publicity guidelines.

Owen summarized three actions needed: 1. Remove El Tour/Habitat for Humanity from the Ask calendar, 2. Decide if El Tour should be added as a separate line on the Ask calendar and 3. Determine how to proceed with the DeGraff's request.

Mike moved to remove El Tour de Tucson/Habitat for Humanity from the Ask calendar. Motion seconded by Laura. Motion carried.

No action was taken to add El Tour de Tucson as a separate line item to the Ask calendar. Discussed the DeGraff's request. Council postponed action on this until next meeting (Aug 19th).

New Item for Discussion: Lori inquired if there's a church policy dealing with homeless people sleeping outside the church sanctuary. She reported a woman approached church members asking for money. Amy reported a man asking for money in the parking lot two weeks ago. Decided to add this as a discussion at the next Council meeting.

Southwest Conference 2026: Owen reported that the Southwest Conference initially said "No" to the proposal to hold a virtual Annual Meeting in 2026. Subsequently, the SWC sent out a survey to this year's participants seeking feedback on the in-person style of meeting. Pastor John said the latest SWC response to him (via e-mail) is that they are considering the proposal and reviewing the surveys.

No other issues were discussed.
Owen closed the meeting in prayer.

Motion to Adjourn by Jane Spande. Seconded by Wes.

Meeting ended at 5:50 pm

Next meeting: August 19th, 2025 at 4:00 pm.