

**Casas Adobes Congregational Church, UCC, ONA**

**Council Minutes**

**Tuesday, December 9, 2025**

**Recorded by:** Pat Brown, Clerk

**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, Amy Lincoln, Lori Powers, Jane Spande, Bobby Sutherland, Dennis Thomas, Wes Ward, Mike Wilson

**Pre-meeting Reports:** Minutes from November Council Meeting, MJAM, MoS, MoW, MPR, Reflection, Treasurer/Financial Reports/Proposed 2026 Budget

**Owen called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm with a welcome to all.**

**Amy opened the meeting in prayer.**

**Council Reflection:** Lori read Luke 1:46-55. Questions discussed were (1) Christmas is often seen as a gentile, domesticated story. What do you see here in Mary's song that might challenge such notions? (2) What do you need to hear, receive, experience to more fully (assuming that most of us are doing some of this in some ways) be part of what God is doing in the world that "lifts up the lowly" and "fills the hungry?"

**Consent Agenda:** Owen asked for approval of the November minutes, and they were approved unanimously.

**Moderator's Report:** Owen acknowledged the Treasurer and Stewardship Team for the work put into the 2026 Budget.

**Treasurer/Finance Report:** Dennis reported that the current Treasurer's report indicates that all is on track for the 2025 Budget. Currently, \$456,000 has been received in pledges with \$44,000 still waiting. Average pledge amounts have increased over previous years. Investments are going well. \$1.6 million is in Legacy and Reserve accounts with total funds around \$2 million. Mike added that the Stewardship Team plans to send an email nudge to those who have not yet completed their pledge forms.

Regarding the **Budget Proposal** for 2026, which was previously sent to Council members, it must be distributed to congregational members two weeks before the Congregational Meeting on the Budget and thus will be sent out on January 5, 2026. Dennis asked that the Council vote for the proposed Budget. The 2026 Budget reflects a 3% total draw from reserves v. the 8.1% projected total draw in 2025 partly due to the generosity of Estate gifts received in 2025.

Discussion, briefly summarized, of the 2026 Budget included:

- Lori acknowledged the timely submission of information to the Narrative Budget and she would like to see the full packet that includes the Pledge form on the website and in a link in the *Tidings*. Mike said that the information will be put on the website.
- Owen asked for clarification of where accounting of monies from Craft Fair, Rummage Sale, etc. is maintained: answer is that those monies in and out are managed by Anne and not in the Budget.
- Mike said that he would like the Budget to look balanced, and he made a suggestion to change the Targeted Reserve Income amount in the form of an amendment in order to reflect 5% of the 3-year average of the Reserve Fund that was agreed upon in 2024 for this line item. This amount would be \$29,800 for the 2026 budget. Discussion included how to inform the Congregation of what it takes to run the church, and of what the perception of the message for

the Congregation might be of the Budget, i.e. “here’s what we are doing (that I want to be a part of)” v. “this is what we need.” Also discussed was a concern of how future budgets would handle fluctuating numbers.

**Mike moved that an amendment be made to the Proposed Budget for 2026 to increase the Targeted Reserve Income to \$29,000; Wes seconded;** the motion was defeated by a vote of 8-2.

**Dennis moved to approve the Proposed Budget for 2026, Mike seconded;** the motion passed unanimously.

**Mike moved that the Treasurer and FARM team bring to Council an enhanced explanation of the “Targeted Reserve Income” budget line item; Owen seconded;** the motion passed unanimously.

**Items for Council Discussion:**

- Dennis brought up the need to replace the 10-year-old office computers that have an estimated \$4,500 cost. **Dennis moved that up to \$4,500 be taken from the Reserve Fund to replace the office computers; Owen seconded; the motion passed unanimously.**
- Amy addressed the concern for Susan Schroeder who is undergoing medical treatment and the need for others to help cover her jobs. Amy also brought up that an older member was left in front of the church after services, waiting for a ride that did not come, and that people leaving the church, particularly after a class, be aware if someone might be stranded or need assistance.
- Pastor Michael mentioned that the office is short-staffed and office hours may be adjusted.

**Pastor Michael offered a closing prayer.**

**Amy moved to adjourn the meeting; Dennis seconded; the motion passed unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 5:27 pm.

**Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, January 20, 2026 -- 4:00 pm via Zoom**

**Congregational Budget Meeting: January 18, 2026, following Worship Service**