



Church Council Meeting Minutes

April 26, 2026

Attendees: Eleke Ukpabi, Latisha Ukpabi, Curt Narwold, Pastor Owen, Judy Krase, Mary St. Clair, Shanon Buckroyd, Arnie Porath, and special guest Tarah Widaman.

1. Call to Order

Chair Eleke Ukpabi called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

2. Opening Prayer and Devotion

Eleke Ukpabi led the opening prayer and devotion.

3. Iowa State University – ACCC Consultation Follow-Up

Tarah Widaman provided an update on outcomes resulting from the Iowa State University consultation. Key accomplishments include:

- Completed refresh and update of the ACCC website.
- Commitment to an enhanced social media strategy, including a minimum of three posts per week featuring:
 - Bible verses and faith-based content
 - Program highlights
 - Staff spotlights
- Promotion of childcare services through bulletins at neighboring churches; three churches have agreed to participate.
- Development of an updated childcare brochure.
- Review of facility signage needs. Arnie Porath will research options and provide recommendations.

4. Approval of March Council Minutes

Council noted that the March minutes inadvertently included the March Financial Report rather than the February Financial Report.

Motion: Approve the March minutes with correction to include the February Financial Report.

- Motion by: Eleke Ukpabi
- Second by: Mary St. Clair
- Result: Approved unanimously

February Financial Report (Correction to March Minutes)

Cash Balance: \$366,900, including general, restricted, and endowment funds, representing an increase of approximately \$4,600 from January.

Revenue

- Approximately \$100 below budget.
- Lower childcare rent due to utility reconciliation, offset by higher contributions.

Expenses

- Lower personnel, Christian Education, and Council expenses.
- Higher property expenses related to furnace repairs.

Cash Flow

- February: Positive approximately \$4,200.
- Year-to-Date: Positive approximately \$8,600.

5. March Financial Report

Cash Balance: \$388,000, including general, restricted, and endowment funds, representing an increase of approximately \$21,800 from February.

Revenue

- Favorable to budget by approximately \$16,000 due primarily to receipt of annual pledge contributions.

Expenses

- Higher local mission and pastoral expenses of approximately \$3,000.
- Partially offset by lower personnel and worship expenses totaling approximately \$2,200.
- Quarterly endowment performance was unfavorable by approximately \$200.

Cash Flow

- March: Positive approximately \$22,800.
- Year-to-Date: Positive approximately \$31,400.

Motion: Approve the March Financial Report.

- Motion by: Judy Krase
- Second by: Arnie Porath
- Result: Approved unanimously.

6. Kudos and Celebrations

Council expressed appreciation to the following individuals for their service and contributions:

- Randy Wehofer and Darin Leach for their involvement in the Office Manager search process.
- All onboarding facilitators for Sarah Green, new Office Manager, especially the team of trainers:
 - Lisa Grace for Constant Contact training.
 - Jackie Black for training on financial processes and bill payment procedures.
 - Diane Aurand for attendance-recording training.
- Pat Fliger, Georgene Raver, Maryls Lapham, Judy Johnson, Jerry Van Der Burg, and others for Easter sanctuary decorations, restoration and preparation for Palm Sunday and Easter services.
- The Party Squad and all contributors for organizing and supporting the Easter Breakfast.
- Youth leaders Darin Leach, Mary St. Clair, and Lori Krase Cayton, along with participating youth, for leading Youth Sunday worship.

7. Pastor's Report

Pastor Owen provided updates on recent ministry activities, including:

- Participation in a course on creativity and worship.
- Service as Chair of the Regional Ordination Committee.
- Hiring and onboarding of Office Manager Sarah Green.

Additional updates included:

- Upcoming worship series: *Imagining the People of God*.
- Planning and scheduling of the next Pastor's Class.
- Jennifer Koehler's appointment to coordinate planning efforts for the church's 50th Anniversary celebration.

Office Manager Schedule: Regular office hours will be Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

8. Old Business

Ankeny Christian Childcare Partnership

Council discussed the ongoing partnership between Ankeny Christian Church and Ankeny Christian Childcare, focusing on:

- Continued support of the childcare ministry with Shanon Buckroyd, Latisha Ukpabi, and Arnie Porath leading the collaboration effort with ACCC leadership.
- Reviewed utilization of church space as designed for childcare operations.
- Identifying opportunities to help ACCC maintain focus on delivering quality childcare services.

Communications and Outreach

Council discussed opportunities to strengthen social media engagement and digital presence.

- Disciples Church locations in Downtown Des Moines and Wakonda were identified as examples of effective social media engagement.
- Leadership will explore best practices and potential consultation opportunities.
- Curt Narwold reported that Amplify provided a website proposal totaling approximately \$4,400.
- Additional website enhancement opportunities will continue to be evaluated.

9. New Business

Bench Project

Arnie Porath provided an update and will continue evaluating options.

Legacy Circle

An informational meeting for the Legacy Circle is scheduled for August 23, 2026.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Latisha Ukpabi

Church Council Secretary