

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Church of the Pilgrimage, Plymouth, MA. February 24, 2026

PRESENT: Rick Dower (Moderator), Lois Post (Clerk), Rev. Tim Garvin-Leighton, Nancy Morse (Missions), Kathy Marks (CE), Pam Pawlowski (Membership), Linn Peterson (Deacons), Lindsey Emberley (Nominating), Andy Slavens (Trustees), Jeff Donn (Music), Linda Kreil (UCC Delegate)

Rick Dower opened the ZOOM meeting at 7:04 P.M., a quorum being present. *Due to the power outages from the blizzard the day before, several Council members were working with flashlights, etc.

Prayer: Rev. Tim

N. Morse made a motion seconded by L. Peterson to accept the minutes of 1/27/2026 Church Council meeting. VOTE- Approved.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Rev. Tim noted that both he and Michael Eaton are working from home due to the blizzard yesterday. He then reported that the Ash Wednesday service was well attended despite the lack of heat in the building. The Scout Sunday on 2/22 was good despite the weather. A Scout is interested in doing an Eagle project within the Church. Richard Rinker has sent guidelines for this project. Several church members attended the 2/22 resistance service at the church in Marshfield Hills. Some of our choir participated as well. A similar service is planned for 3/22 at the UCC Norwell church. A rehearsal of the Resistance Choir is scheduled for 3/1 at 1:00. The singers are from all over the area and plan to sing at the No Kings Rally on 3/28 on Coles Hill.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

D. Reinhardt sent his report. It showed that the net operating revenue exceeded the budget by \$14,000 in January due to the income realized from some pledged funds and the Peace Abbey lease payment for the year. Investments have been doing well. All cost centers were under, at, or just slightly over budget in January.

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MINISTRY TEAMS REPORTS:

TRUSTEES: A. Slavens updated the Council on the Church boiler issues. The former contractor was contacted and has been working with Brian to get the heat going again. He will be coming back to work on it at some point. The Trustees have 1 quote for roof repairs of the Church building to date. However, yesterday's blizzard may have caused additional damage, due to the high winds. The fire protection system at the JRC has been repaired. Slavens is not sure if the Town fire and building inspectors have inspected as yet. Congregation Beth Jacob's Hebrew school will be meeting in the JRC beginning on 3/1 from 9:00-11:00. The Rabbi will have office space in the JRC as well. This arrangement is on-going for a while. The Trust are working on the Liability Insurance issue stemming from the fall of a church/choir member a year ago.

DEACONS: L. Peterson went over the Lenten plans. 3/12-Soup Supper with Missions. 3/29-Palm Sunday breakfast service. 4/5-Easter services, Sunrise Service on Coles Hill and Morning worship with Communion. This will be by Intinction. At the last Deacons meeting they discussed the concept of "Fifth Sundays" featuring some music possibilities. Jeff Donn, Music Ministry Team, had requested having our church and Bethel AME join in the musical offerings on 5/31. The Deacons approved this and plans are being made to join for musical offerings that day. The service of worship will be in the COTP. More information at a later date. The Linus Blanket Sunday will be 3/22. The Deacons discussed and agreed to support having a locked display case to display historical documents placed in Allerton Hall as well as having a portrait of Rev. Tim done. Financing these may be done through the Memorial Fund or donations.

MISSIONS: N. Morse reported that the food drive held on 2/22 was relatively successful considering that attendance was low due to the report of no heat in the sanctuary. Missions is extending the drive to 3/1. Missions is planning a soup supper on 3/12 at 6 P.M. and will be partnering with the Deacons. Lewis Randa, Peace Abbey, will make a presentation. Signups will be 3/1 and 3/8.

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MUSIC: J. Donn has secured a guest trumpeter to accompany the choir on Easter. May 31 there will be special music during worship with Bethel AME. Jenn Bingham-Maas is researching memorial plaques for chairs in the choir in memory of deceased choir members.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Blankets are being collected from people to be dedicated during the worship service on 3/22/26. These blankets will be distributed to several organizations and given to children when needed.

UCC DELEGATION: L. Kreil reported that the SNEC is holding listening sessions regarding the work of the new conference over the past 2 years and looking ahead to the next 2 years. Some topics for the Conference to focus on were engaging youth long term, social justice, strategies for encouraging smaller churches and forming connections between churches. Also, ways to reach out to those struggling with ICE.

OLD BUSINESS:

Possible location for the display cabinet for historical documents was discussed. Locating it between windows on the ocean side of Allerton Hall seemed to be the preferred location.

Dower reported that he is working on getting information together on the portrait of Rev. Tim and looking at location.

Slavens stated that the Trustees are looking into having the Audit Committee conduct an audit to be sure things are going well with using QuikBooks, possibly taking place in July. Dower will speak to the Audit Committee.

There being no further business Dower adjourned the meeting at 7:37 P.M.

The next Church Council meeting will be **Tuesday March 24, 2026 7:00 PM on ZOOM.**

PRAYER: Rick Dower

Lois Post, Clerk