

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

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

PRESENT: Rick Dower (Moderator), Dawn Durmis (Assistant Moderator), Lois Post (Clerk), Rev. Tim Garvin-Leighton, Don Reinhardt (Treasurer), Nancy Morse (Missions), Judy Foster (CE), Pam Pawlowski (Membership), Linn Peterson (Deacons), Lindsey Emberley (Nominating), Sarah Plaster (Trustees), Marna Blomberg (Music), Linda Kreil (UCC Delegate)

Rick Dower opened the ZOOM meeting at 7:01 P.M., a quorum being present.

Prayer: Rev. Tim

M. Blomberg made a motion seconded by L. Kreil to accept the minutes of 2/24/2026 Church Council meeting. VOTE- Approved with 2 abstentions.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Rev. Tim commented on the winter challenges due to the cold and snow, including the blizzard. Parking has been a real challenge. He held a quarterly meeting with the worship ministry team this past week in which planning for the next 3 months took place. Rev. Tim reviewed the Holy Week schedule of services, etc. The Easter Sunrise service will be at 6:00 A.M. on Coles Hill. Emmeline Little has had recent eye surgery. The "Solidarity Through Song" gathering at the Norwell UCC church was very inspiring. He is considering holding a similar service at the COTP later in the Spring and is talking to David Tyler and Michael Eaton.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

D. Reinhardt reported that the total income received from pledges is \$13,000 ahead of budget. While unpledged receipts are about \$500 under budget, total contributions were \$15,000 ahead of the total budget for February. Investments have been down due to the events in the Middle East.

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MINISTRY TEAMS REPORTS:

TRUSTEES: A. Slavens updated the Council on the Church boiler issues. Charles Garrity, former contractor, has been working with Brian to get the heat going again and the boiler operating in auto mode. There are several leaks in the heating pipes around Allerton Hall due to boiler issues. He is still working on these issues. The Trustees have put out a proposal for evaluation of the needed roof repairs of the Church building and cost estimate to complete the work. It does not appear that the recent storms caused any additional leaks. The annual building and fire inspections by the Town have been completed. Several emergency exit signs needed lighting repairs. The Trustees have had the electrician go through the buildings to check all lighting and other service issues, including outlet issues in Allerton Hall kitchen. The stove in the JRC kitchen will be moved to the Allerton Hall kitchen and the old stove there will be removed. They are also coordinating with both the Lightning Protection and Bell Ringer companies to do the related electrical work needed for these 2 items. The Trustees would like to have a congregation “Work Day” for both buildings followed by a communal meal. More to come. The Trustees are continuing to work on the liability insurance issue with Sue Coombs.

DEACONS: L. Peterson went over the Lenten plans. 3/29-Palm Sunday breakfast service. 4/2-Maundy Thursday service, 4/5-Easter services, Sunrise Service on Coles Hill and Morning worship with Communion. This will be by Intinction.

MISSIONS: N. Morse reported the next food drive will be on Palm Sunday, 3/29. Missions is planning a soup supper on 4/9 at 6 P.M. and will be partnering with the Deacons. Lewis Randa, Peace Abbey, will make a presentation.

MUSIC: Jeff Donn has secured a guest trumpeter to accompany the choir on Easter. The May 31 special music during worship with Bethel AME is being planned despite the fact the Donns are moving the end of April. The organ tuning is being delayed until the heating

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issues are resolved. Jenn Bingham-Maas is researching memorial plaques for chairs in the choir in memory of deceased choir member. 6/21 will be Choir Appreciation Sunday. The Music Ministry Team urgently needs additional members as once the Donns move there will only be 2 active members including M. Blomberg.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Blankets were displayed and dedicated on 3/22. Many thanks to the talented crafters who participated in the project. On Palm Sunday children will distribute palms and take part in a procession. K. Marks has found a series of Easter-related family messages to be used for the Family Message portion of the service. N. Medeiros, Rev. Tim, and K. Marks will do the messages during the services. The C.E. Ministry Team is planning a Game Night/potluck supper on 4/25. The Team is also planning a Youth Sunday in June.

MEMBERSHIP: Beginning on 3/1 the Team has set up a Welcome Table at Coffee Hour to try to help newcomers feel welcome and encourage others to introduce themselves. The Team is continuing to look for new ways to encourage church attendance and welcome all.

UCC DELEGATION: L. Kreil reported that there was a celebration of Ministry and Service of Release for Rev. Patty Kogut, the SE area Conference Minister on 3/8. The Rev. Dr. Charlotte Wright will be the Bridge Area Conference. Kreil listed a link to a recent article by Rev. Dr. Chris Davies in Tiffany Vail's latest newsletter which explains the meaning of Holy Week. Kreil also included a Lenten Prayer from Rev. Darrell Goodwin, the Executive Conference Minister and President.

OLD BUSINESS:

The display cabinet for historical documents will probably be located between two windows on the ocean side of Allerton Hall. Steve Washburn is researching possible cabinets that will fit the space. The Memorial Committee has approved the funds needed.

Dower reported that funds have been coming in for the portrait of Rev. Tim and he and L. Peterson are looking at a location. It was suggested to publish in the Beacon the amount of funds needed.

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NEW BUSINESS:

Dower suggested that there be a link to the Church Council minutes available in the Beacon. Discussion-The feeling is that it would maintain communication with the congregation and show transparency. Council members felt it would be a good idea. But it would need to be edited prior to publication. Dower then made a motion to put a link in the Beacon to an edited version of the Council minute. Seconded by Durmis. VOTE-APPROVED

Dower noted that the Church has an “open meeting” policy. People can attend/join in a meeting. It could encourage more participation. Dower will put an “invite” in the Beacon.

Streaming of the worship services was discussed. Rev. Tim said that currently he is using mikes and an iPad. A mixing board is still needed. He noted that about 40-50 people are watching after the services and about 10-15 watching during services. About 140 people subscribe to the UTube page and come from all over the globe.

A Social Media Coordinator volunteer is needed to help with FaceBook, Instagram TicToc, etc.

Annual Reports are due in the Church office by 4/6.

Annual Meeting-5/3

Time and Talent Auction-early May

Golf Tournament-7/18

There being no further business Dower adjourned the meeting at 8:22 P.M.

The next Church Council meeting will be **Tuesday April 28, 2026 7:00 PM on ZOOM.**

PRAYER: Rick Dower

Lois Post, Clerk