

Immanuel Council Minutes
Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 6:00 pm at Immanuel
Zoom ID: 832 9354 1222 Passcode: 511991
Call-In Number: 1-312-626-6799

Attendees: Pastor Connie, Eve Erickson, Robert Schlack, Al Reedy, Leanne Homa, Jeff Stark, Randy Bestul, Yvette Fleming

Call to Order: by Yvette by 6:03 pm

Devotions: by Pastor Connie prayer from *God Didn't Make Us to Hate*

Pastor's Report: by Pastor Connie reviewed the Lenten Service schedule for the season. Details can be found on the church website.

Secretary's Report: by Leanne mm by AL, 2nd Jeff, motion carried

Treasurer's Report: by Randy—Mission Fund Designation from Sunday before Christmas: \$785 for Campers, Sunshine \$314.52, AAMN \$1126.30, \$211.99 undesignated—Total: \$2323.29 MM by Eve to accept these designations, Al 2nd, motion carried

Old Business:

1. Cottage Meeting—setting priorities—report by Pastor Connie.

1. Food Insecurity—Donna Harding approached Town Meeting about shortfall of \$2500 for Senior Meals, and, with many donations, the debt is down to \$300. Pastor Connie contributed \$500 out of Immanuel's discretionary fund. Discussion of further ideas will be held in the near future.

2. Aging in Place and Library of People--discussion was held. Pastor Connie suggested the title become a "Skills & Talents Bank" with a system of reciprocal trading of help with a form listing possible skills needed and volunteers who can provide them. Every skill perhaps worth the same points and a system of tracking who needs what and what they can provide in return. This will be piloted within the congregation to get the "bugs" out before offering to the community. Each council member will bring back a list of ideas for next meeting.

2. Justice Seekers Report—by Eve & Pastor Connie—meeting Feb. 26th at Messiah Lutheran in Washburn at 5:30 pm for soup and 6:00 Pastor David Carlson is presenting about faith and environmental concerns. March topic is planned to be on health care. Send Eve ideas about food insecurity, environment, transgender justice and more. There is a synod gathering in Duluth on April 18th at First Lutheran in Duluth (and on Zoom) that will focus on environmental issues. This includes our NW Wisconsin synod as well as the Duluth and Twin Cities area synods.

3. Allies and Advocates for Migrant Neighbors Report—by Eve & Pastor Connie—AAMN is hosting a fundraiser—Pie Day Sale—March 14th. Advanced orders required by March 5th--\$20/cash or checks payable to AAMN. Group baking day on March 13th at Bethesda. Pies to be picked up at Bethesda on March 14th. Pies will be apple or blueberry.

4. **Art and Decorations Report**—Kris Anderson, Leanne Homa, David Coates are the committee. More committee members are welcome to join. Suggestions for upgrades and changes will be presented to the council for final approval.
5. **Update on Fellowship Hall**—by Leanne—work is nearly done; the storage closet has some finishing touches needed. What to do with the stained-glass windows needs to be decided.

New Business:

1. Elect Officers for 2026 Council—

Nominations: Yvette nominates Jeff Stark for President, Yvette for Vice President, Leanne will remain as Secretary and Randy Bestul will remain as Financial Secretary. MM by Eve, AI 2nd, motion carried. We welcomed Robert Schlack as our newest council member.

2. Appoint a Mission Committee & set guidelines: The council suggested we have 3 members. Volunteers so far are Diane Hall, Yvette Fleming, and another volunteer. This will be announced at church on Sunday. Pastor Connie will be an ex-officio member. Committee is to come up with guidelines and bring them for approval by the council.

a. Environmental Issues: topics suggested by members and discussed: solar panels suggested by Robert & Gordo, Yvette has researched and found far more cons than pros. Suggestion by Pastor Connie to have an energy audit first. Robert knows someone who does this: Matt Danielson from Washburn has experience doing this in the Twin Cities, and he's certified. Discussion will continue next month.

3. Upgrade of Shepherd's Staff software for the church. The upgrade is \$600, and Immanuel's share is \$222. This was not on our original agenda, so a vote was held, by phone and texts with our council members, as the deadline to order at this price was February 27th. MM by Leanne to upgrade the software, 2nd by Jeff, vote was unanimous.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 5:45 pm

Adjourned: 7:00 pm MM by AI, 2nd by Jeff, motion carried.

Submitted by Leanne Homa
Council Secretary