

# Congregational Council Meeting

## MINUTES

First Lutheran Church, Manhattan, KS

September 18, 2025

Members Present: Steve Ensley, Michael Fritchsen, Travis Hageman, Stephen Haverlah, Lydia Huber, Karen Jerabek, Jeremy Pontow, Sheryl Toburen

Members Absent: Sara Fisher

1. President Sheryl T called the regular council meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Eight members were present, satisfying the minimum of five members for a quorum.
2. Pastor led the council in a devotion.
3. Michael F moved to accept the August 21, 2025 council meeting minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded and passed.
4. Reports of Staff and Committees:
  - a. Written reports were submitted by Pastor; Tony Wichmann, director of children, youth & family ministry; and Janet Carlson, personnel committee recording secretary.
5. Reports of Special Committees: There were no special committee reports submitted.
6. Unfinished Business:
  - a. Building Safety Team Update on Equipment Pricing
    - Jeremy P presented inexpensive camera options to monitor the north door, similar to a Ring device. He noted that these options require monitoring through a downloaded app on a mobile device.
    - Jeremy P reached out to several individuals who may be willing to serve as a monitor. He will provide another update at the next council meeting.
  - b. Building Use Policy Development
    - Pastor and Sheryl T met with an attorney who advised that FLC could charge fees without affecting its tax-exempt status if the fees were limited to recoupment of costs.
    - Jeremy P moved to pass the Building / Facility Use Policy and Agreement. The motion was seconded and passed.
  - c. Child Protection Policy Development
    - Karen J moved to approve the policy with the following changes: 1) policy name will be changed to Abuse Prevention Policy and 2) all references to the policy name within the document will be changed accordingly. The motion was seconded and passed.
7. New Business:
  - a. 2026 Budget Review
    - Sheryl T presented an initial preview of the 2026 budget. Council will review the budget next month after giving estimates are finalized from the 2026 stewardship campaign.
  - b. Designated Giving Established for 2026
    - Travis H moved to accept the designated giving schedule for 2026 as recommended by the stewardship committee. The motion was seconded and passed.

- c. January Congregational Meeting Location in Sanctuary or Fellowship Hall
  - Pastor moved to hold the January congregational meeting in the sanctuary and invite the congregation to share a meal together in the fellowship hall following the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed.
- d. Pastor's Compensation and Health Insurance Coverage for 2026
  - Lydia H moved to increase Pastor's base compensation and provide health insurance coverage option from Portico entitled "Select Copay 2000 ." The motion was seconded and passed.

8. The council meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by Lydia H, council secretary.