

COS May Church Council Minutes

Date: May 18, 2026

Call to Order: 6:33pm

Meeting Adjourned: 8:17pm

Members absent:

- George Axford
- Brenda Adams
- Ben McCumber

Votes/Decisions

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the April COS Council meeting as presented by David Turk

| Motion passed unanimously

Notes and Discussions

Youth Report - Greyson

Lots of changes coming as the school year ends. Youth are preparing for camps. End of the year party last week was fun, giving Ethan a haircut. Youth is planning a whitewater rafting trip also this summer.

President's Report - Ellen

Celebration of the budget meeting and getting the budget passed.

Pastors' Reports

Pastor Fritz

Pastor Fritz shared that we will not be participating in Luther Road camp due to low attendance. This dovetails into macro statistics showing a shift in demographics around birth rates and church participation. In Georgia half of one percent of the population identifies as ELCA Lutheran. This means we must strive and be intentional about inviting people to join us - people will not come, de facto. Churches and camps can't rely on internal/current membership: expand the "marketing" and "client base."

Pastor Wes

Working on plans for the Fall. Palmetto Road task force meets Wednesday to look over the results of the recent survey. The search committee for the Director of Operations role starts soon.

Treasurer's Report - Don

April was a solid month with income 2% above budget and expenses slightly below budget. YTD income of \$142k leading to needed discussions around how much to carry over.

Finance Report - George

Council reviewed the minutes and outstanding questions the Finance Committee had from their April meeting. Discussion was had around the amount of cash to readily have on hand for "rainy days." The opinion of Finance is that the Church has too much and it can be invested or used. Finance seeks advice of Council on the parameters to define "too little" and "too much" as well as what we should do when the Church is outside these parameters. The Treasurer and Finance will come up with boundaries and plans. Continued discussion on the formal process of undesignated gifts to the Church and progress on the sub-committee to resolve the question. Council discussed continuing physical giving statements every 6 months. Council decided to continue with the current timing for now (including this upcoming June) and discuss further in the future.

Personnel Update - Ben

The search committee for the Director of Operations is starting soon.

Administrative Items

Pastor Fritz met with the two lay people planning on attending the upcoming Synod assembly.

Vision/Goals Discussion

Various long term vision and goals were discussed around:

- Preschool accreditation and playground location
- Look into reconfiguring the choir room and youth office into a more open, inviting location with coffee, couches, etc.
- Creating a formal bulletin board for various ministries

- Setting up a physical station for people to submit prayer requests in person (not an option at this time)
- Creating a better process to collect and understand the regular attendance of our services