

St. Olaf Church Council Meeting Minutes March 12, 2026 (Review copy)

1. Call meeting to order at 5:20PM by President Paul Thusius after Scott shared devotion and prayer after the sharing of God's Blessings/Opportunities/Prayer Requests since our last meeting

Members present: Paul T, Dave J., Sonya D., Ron E., Linda F., Scott S., Pastor Tom and Tim T

- a. Our mission "Sharing God's Love, Caring for Community"
- b. Review/approve previous meeting minutes Motion to Approve: Linda F Seconded: Scott. Motion passed unanimously

2. Reports

- a. Executive: Paul T. read a Thank you note from Mary for the card & gifts provided for her tenure on the Council
- b. Suggested that we add disclaimer to bulletin advising of picture/video restrictions. Dave to follow up on as it sounds like we previously had such a statement in the past.
- c. Finance Committee: (John C not in attendance)
 - i. Fire alarm and monitoring security system & Phone line. Dave advised that another meeting was scheduled for March 17 with the installation team. More info to come at next meeting
- d. Mission Fund Committee: Nigerian Pastoral support. Update by Pastor Tom advising we will be putting on an African themed dinner in the future. Current estimate to raise is \$5,000 as is what will be needed for Conference and home repairs. Pastor may have someone that could generously assist. More information to follow when we get data to define the need and then explain to the congregation.
- e. Property Committee
 - i. Cross on Steeple – In process of being completed
 - ii. Parsonage door update – Pastor Tom advises that 3 doors are already completed with more information to follow at next meeting.
- f. Worship and Music: Dave J. – Ecumenical traveling service will be at St. Olaf's on March 25th. We will need finger food ready to go. Easter breakfast preparations are in the works.
- g. Youth Ministry: Scott S. Pie auction went great. 11 students and 6 parents volunteered their service to make it a success. Estimated \$3,500 raised (!)

3. Previous Business

- a. Prairie Project - Prairie has been overseeded. We've submitted a grant application to Kettle Moraine Garden Club to cover costs of trees, shrubs, lumber, mulch, and signage. Will know late May early June. More info to follow
- b. Update to Windows 11 for office computer – no update.
- c. Alerting our members to possible AI scams involving pastors - statement made Mar 8 by Scott. **Suggested that we send video clip of Scott's presentation to entire congregation via email.**
- d. Policy for outside use of our facilities (liability ins.) Paul T. & Dave J – no report
- e. Retreat for council and key church leaders - Sat Apr 11 - 8:00 - 3:00. *Still all systems Go.*

4 New Business - Upcoming events:

- a. Group to All Peoples Church for a Sunday (10:00) worship service. Agreed it sounded like a great idea. Work on getting a good cross section of the congregation to go. Maybe split in to more than just a one time thing.
- b. Commitment by youth and adults when going on mission trips. Dave made a recommendation to Adopt a “commitment deposit” from anyone signing up for the varied Mission/Adventure/Event Trip. Dave made Motion: *“Those participating shall as a commitment make a deposit of their individual personal cost when signing up. Funds paid are non-refundable unless someone else is found to fill their spot if they cannot participate.”* Seconded by Paul T. Motion passed unanimously.
- c. St Olaf being conjoined in a lawsuit with the ELCA against the Federal Government. Much discussion regarding ongoing lawsuit and the decision that was made to send requested documentation on *“adjacent protected facilities,”* and *“adjacent protected area“* to be included as a part of that lawsuit. Dave introduced the following Motion: *“ In regards to lawsuits being brought by the ECLA – Milwaukee Synod or in which the ECLA is conjoined in, St. Olaf Lutheran does not wish to be joined as a party in any lawsuit(s) against the federal government that challenges the federal government’s constitutional or statutory authority to act for the protection of United States citizens. ”* Motion seconded by Ron. Final vote: 3 Yea; 3 Nay; 2 abstaining. Motion failed to gain majority.

5 Closing

- a. Motion made by Linda to close meeting. Seconded by Sonya. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. Next meeting: April 9, 5:00pm
- c. May meeting adjusted to May 7th
- d. Meeting adjourned at 6:38pm with the recitation of The Lord’s Prayer