

**St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Amityville
Consistory Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2026**

Present – Stacey Ambrose, Sandee Burns, Peter Dadey, Wendy Elser, Josh Geckle, Brenda Haas, Billy Harrison, Judy Leister, Susan Newland, Kay Nyman, Linda Okuniewski, Heidi Pennypacker, Doug Reinert, Marianne Reinert, Judy Reitz, Michele Ross, Martha Sitrler, Michelle Stern, Kathy Weller. Rev. Don Epps.
Devotions were given by Brenda Haas.

President Barry Kulakowsky called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was confirmed by the Secretary.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Approve meeting minutes of December 10, 2025, as presented.

MOTION BY: Judy Reitz **SECOND:** Billy Harrison **VOTE:** All in favor

Minister's Report

Rev. Donald Epps

- Report emailed.

Secretary's Report/ Correspondence

Martha Sitrler. Secretary

- No report. No correspondence.

Treasurer's Report

Peter Dadey, Treasurer

	<u>December 2025</u>	<u>Full Year 2026</u>
Income	\$51,238	584,469
Expenses	43,117	544,379
Surplus/(Deficit)	8,121	40,089

Peter announced that he had rolled over a CD that came due. He also reported that we have received a refund from the IRS totaling \$72,404.58 for the energy-saving HVAC upgrades installed.

Peter also stated that we received a \$10,000 donation to be used as Consistory recommends. A motion was made to accept the donation and use it to make needed repairs on - and repaving of - the north driveway – from the dumpsters to the exit onto Route 662.)

MOTION: To accept the \$10,000 donation from a member and to use it toward the necessary reconstruction and paving of the north entrance driveway.

MOTION BY: Marianne Reinert **SECOND:** Michele Ross **VOTE:** All in favor

***Note** – the estimated total cost for the work was approximately \$16,000 last fall, and we have already had an offer from another member to pay the remaining cost of the project. The work will be scheduled as soon as weather permits.

President's Report

Barry Kulakowsky, President

- President Kulakowsky thanked outgoing president Curt Clifford for helping him prepare for this meeting (after 15 years since his last term on Consistory.) He then asked all Consistory members to check and correct their contact information. He requested that each committee present a brief "Committee" minute during an upcoming worship service – followed up by a written update in the next Weekly Word or monthly newsletter. Committee members should also be available in the library to answer questions and encourage new volunteers. Michelle Stern will do the first presentation. Copies of St. Paul's Bylaws were distributed.

High Priority Business

- Kathy Weller explained her responsibilities as Charter Organization Representative for the Scout troop that meets at our church. She reported that she had been informed of an incident that occurred at a Scout event in December. She, Curt Clifford, and Bill Falstich met with the parties involved and scheduled time to listen to

concerns from parents and scout leadership, ultimately resulting in a change in leadership. The new Scout Master is Brian Welch.

Committee Reports

Budget, Finance & Stewardship

Bill Falstich, Committee Chair

- No report

Capital Campaign

Richard Zuber, Committee Chair

- No report

Christian Education

Wendy Elser, Committee Chair

- No report

Church and Ministry

Brenda Haas, Committee Chair

- Report emailed
- Brenda reported that the committee met on January 12 and will be reviewing the Employee Handbook and job descriptions.
- The Committee will meet again on February 16.

Evangelism

Kathy Weller, Heidi Pennypacker Committee Co-Chairs

- Report emailed.
- Kathy reported that the Committee met on January 8 to review all the Christmas events and to plan the PALentine Dinner.

Facilities

Joe Aguiar, Committee Chair

- Report emailed.
- Doug Reinert reported that supplies are now being purchased for the renovation of the women's room across from the Church office.
- The fire suppression system in the FLMC kitchen will be inspected this week and the 3-year Sprinkler inspection has been scheduled for January 30.
- A contractor has now been hired to install additional insulation in the gym ceiling where the old insulation has settled and become less effective. The \$3,221.94 cost will come from HVAC funds.

Fellowship

Michelle Stern, Committee Chair

- Report emailed
- Michele reported that the first after-worship Fellowship was held last Sunday to celebrate Rev. Epps' birthday.
- Two high top tables have been placed in the library to help with fellowship events.
- The Scouts will provide and serve our Fellowship snacks on Scout Sunday, February 1.

HVAC

Judy Leister and Kay Nyman, Committee Co-Chairs

- Report emailed.
- AS the remaining pledges toward the Capital Campaign come in, we should have enough money to complete the mini splits in the lower level of the Chapel, which will be completed this spring.
- The Committee has requested a proposal for air conditioning the sanctuary from a fourth contractor.
- Kay and Curt are currently working to provide copies of all utility bills to Entech so they can provide a full benchmark evaluation of costs and benefits for installing solar energy for our entire facility.

Missions

Michele Ross, Committee Chair

- No Report

Settled Pastor Search

William Harrison, Committee Chair

- Billy reported that the Search Committee has been meeting regularly and continues to discuss our church's needs and to screen pastoral candidates.

SPLASH

Marianne Reinert, Committee Chair

- No report

Suppers

Marianne Reinert

- Marianne reminded everyone that the Spring Turkey Supper will be held on Saturday, March 28 – a week earlier than usual because of Holy Week and Easter the first week in April.

Technology Committee

Josh Geckle, Committee Chair

- Report emailed.
- Josh reported that work continues on the mini computers for the office and work room. We may be able to transition the accounting system if we can get the software.
- Steps are being taken to prevent pieces of tech equipment from disappearing.
- Josh and Kay plan to organize and label all the cords and cables under the computer desk in the SPLASH room so they can be easily reconnected.
- The Technology Committee will meet on Monday, January 19 at 7:30 via Google Meet.

Communications Branch

Kay Nyman, Sub-Committee Chair

- The Communications Sub-committee did not meet in December but will meet January 21 at 7:30 via Google Meet.

Worship Committee

Judy Reitz, Committee Chair

- Report emailed
- Judy reported that the Committee met on January 8 to review the Advent and Christmas services and to plan for the Lenten season. We are looking for leaders for the Lenten Wednesday evening Bible Studies,

Youth Committee

Stacey Ambrose, Committee Chair

- Stacey stated that the Committee met on January 5. They are planning a Bingo party for the residents at Birdsboro Lodge. The Committee is also exploring new ideas that would be of interest to the youth – especially the boys.
- The next meeting is scheduled for February 2.

Other Committee Reports

- **Guldin Trust** – Wendy Elser reported that the Committee has completed their interviews and selected the students who qualify for this year's grants. 7 recipients will each receive \$2,054 toward their advanced education or training.
- **Graveyard Fund** – Curt stated that we are now receiving monthly financial updates from Fidelity Investments as requested.
- **Home Association** – Marianne reported that the Home Association will meet soon to review plans for the parsonage. They also promise to schedule an open house for interested members to see the completed renovations.

- **Scouts** – Kathy Weller requested that the Scouts be permitted to rehang plaques with the names of Scouts from Troop 597 who have earned their Eagle Scout awards.

MOTION: To permit Troop 597 to hang three Eagle Scout Award plaques in the hallway near the Scout room.

MOTION BY: Kathy Weller **SECOND:** Doug Reinert **VOTE:** All in favor

Kathy also requested that Troop 597 be permitted to park 2 of their trailers on church property (exact location to be determined after consultation with SPLASH and HVAC Committee regarding possible conflicts.)

MOTION: To permit Troop 597 to park two trailers on church property with the stipulation that they be moved upon request during special events.

MOTION BY: Kathy Weller **SECOND:** Kay Nyman **VOTE:** All in favor

Deacons

- No report

Elders/ Spiritual Council

- All Elders and members of Spiritual Council will meet on Saturday, January 17, 2026, for a workshop with Rev. Epps on Shepherding Our Sheep.

Old Business

None

New Business

- **The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 11 at 7:00 p.m.**
- **Devotions** – for that meeting will be given by Marianne Reinert

Expenditure Motions – (Unbudgeted or >\$500)

The following payments for non-budgeted expenses or payments over \$500 were submitted for approval.

MOTION: to approve the following expenditures as requested:

\$ 1509.49 from Facilities Committee for a new vanity in the second floor Women’s Room.

\$ 3221.94 from HVAC funds to insulate the gym ceiling.

\$ 911.45 from HVAC funds for weatherstripping **all exterior doors except the wooden Sanctuary doors.**

MOTION: Kathy Weller **SECOND:** Brenda Haas **VOTE:** All in favor

Adjournment:

- At 8:30 pm.

MOTION BY: Linda Okuniewski **SECOND:** Judy Reitz **VOTE:** All in favor

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Sitler
Secretary