

**Lebanon Lutheran Church
Congregation Council
Minutes of February 17, 2026 Meeting
In Person - In Church Lounge**

In Attendance: Pastor Doug Ogden, President David Dusenberry, Vice President Al Wheeler, Secretary Amy Swope, Treasurer Terry Beekman, Cheri Crouch, Kim Nelson, Toni Schillaci, Stephen Troy, Barb Aardema

Retiring Secretary Al Wheeler called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Al then welcomed new Council members Kim Nelson, Toni Schillaci and Stephen Troy. Al welcomed Barb Aardema representing the Historical Committee and added Barb to the early part of the agenda. Al added the item, New Council Member Pictures, to the New and Urgent Business portion of the meeting, and then called for the **Agenda Review**. The agenda was approved as revised.

Historical Committee Request: Barb Aardema showed the Council several of the many albums that have been meticulously compiled by the Historical Committee. She explained that the Historical Committee would like for them to be displayed in an area where they might be easily seen and appreciated. At Pastor Doug's suggestion, it was agreed that the storage cabinet where they are now stored could be moved from under a fixed wall cabinet. That change would expose the top of the storage cabinet, providing a large surface for displays to be made in the church lounge.

Opening Devotion: Al read a devotion, "The Spiritual Discipline of Joy" from the book *God Didn't Make Us To Hate Us* by Rev. Lizzie McManus-Dail. The author emphasizes the need for joy in this turbulent world that we live in, but noted that it is nearly impossible to remain joyful. She makes the case that we do not need to manufacture our own joy because we are given the joy of the Lord, and that we can rely on it to be our strength.

Future Devotions: March - Cheri
April - Kim

Recent Signs of God's Grace were shared by participants.

Secretary's Minutes: Minutes of the Annual Congregation Meeting were reviewed with no changes being made. The minutes will be presented as written at the next annual meeting for the congregation's approval. Council then reviewed the January Council Meeting minutes. David moved that the minutes be approved as written, seconded by Cheri. The motion passed unanimously.

Pastor's report: (See Pastor's Report to the Church Council for February 17, 2026):
Pastor Doug reported that our food pantry will soon be receiving a generous donation from Wesco.

Pastor Doug also reported to Council that a person who wishes to remain anonymous would like to make a major contribution to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund on the condition that the funds be used "to create an Emergency Fund for individuals who can benefit from a bridge loan or a gift to get them through difficult situations. The money is to be disbursed at the pastor's discretion." Pastor Doug commented that this fund would operate similar to how the Grace Fund now functions except on a much larger

scale. David asked if there might be tax issues for the recipients. After discussion, it was agreed that the donation should be recorded in the church's financial records. Pastor Doug agreed to address any tax questions with Terri Vanderleest, our CPA. A motion was made by David that the Council accept this generous donation under the above conditions, seconded by Stephen. The motion was approved unanimously.

Financial Reports: (See Financial Reports to the Church Council for February 17, 2026):

Terry and Cheri gave brief instructions to both new and old Council members on what to look for in the financial reports. Cheri explained the duty for council members to count the collections after Sunday services, then circulated the sign-up sheet for 2026 counters.

New or Urgent Business:

- 1. Election and Appointment of Officers:** Al stated that the Council has vacancies for the offices of President, Vice President and Secretary and then asked for nominations for those offices. For President, Cheri nominated David Dusenberry, seconded by Amy. David accepted and no other nominations were offered. For Vice President, Cheri nominated Al Wheeler, seconded by David. Al accepted and no other nominations were made. For Secretary, Cheri nominated Amy Swope, seconded by David. Amy accepted on the condition that she be permitted to use a recording/writing computer program. This condition was accepted and no other nominations were made. There being only one person nominated for each office, Al requested a vote of acclamation. The officers were elected unanimously. David assumed his position as Council President and made a motion that we appoint Terry Beekman as Treasurer and Curt Crouch as Financial Secretary, seconded by Amy. The motion passed unanimously. Pastor Doug noted that installation of Council members would take place at the Sunday service on March 8.
- 2. Property Committee Notes and Concerns:** Terry mentioned the upcoming Fire Marshal Inspection.
- 3. Event Planning:** Lent lunches and vespers plans are in place.
- 4. Thrivent Action Cards/Calendar:** No immediate needs were noted.
- 5. Pictures of New Council Members:** David accepted responsibility to accomplish this in a timely manner.

Emphasis of the Month:

February - Kids' Klub: Amy gave another fine talk!

March - Good Gifts - Curt

April - Good Gifts - Stephen

Unfinished Business:

- 1. Emergency Plans In Place - Form a Committee:** David has a meeting planned on Friday, February 20 at 10:00 at the church.
- 2. Outdoor Sign for February/March:** Pastor Doug will advise Marsha.
- 3. Balcony Project:** David will speak with Mike.

Calendar and Adjournment: At 7:37 Cheri moved to adjourn and Amy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Retiring Secretary, Al Wheeler