

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Date: February 8, 2026

Time: 9:58 AM

Prepared by: S. Schnare

Attending:

Peter Oickle, Chair

Andre Brideau

Karen Corkum

Karen Field

Ann Joudrey

Marshall Robar,

Sandra Schnare

Lucille Wentzell

David Zwicker

1. Call to Order / Opening Prayer

- P. Oickle called the meeting to order and A. Joudrey offered the opening prayer.

2. Approval of Agenda

- **Moved** by S. Schnare, seconded by K. Field, to approve the agenda as amended.
Decision: *Carried unanimously.*

3. Approval of Minutes

- **Moved** by S. Schnare, seconded by L. Wentzell, to approve the minutes of January 18, 2026 as presented. **Decision:** *Carried unanimously.*

4. Financial Report January 2026

- January general fund surplus: + **\$5,957**
- 2026 general fund deficit (Jan.1 – Jan.31): + **\$5,957**
- Accumulated general fund surplus: + **\$63,414**

Income Statement Highlights:

- General fund offerings were down \$130 from January 2025. It appears our significant decreases have stabilized but we should continue to monitor this closely.
- Room rentals: \$10,396. \$9,300 of that relates to SSODA. \$741 is Rogers Communications.
- Pastor Salary: \$3,966 relates to South Shore Lutheran Shared Ministry. St. Paul's is paying for 6 services x \$661/service.
- Repairs and maintenance: \$929
- \$40 Walter Lohnes repair to outside siding
- \$471 Len's Plumbing & Heating repair to main kitchen fridge
- \$56 Gow's Home Hardware paint
- \$362 Amazon outside smoke dispenser x2
- Internet and Telephone \$512 due to double billing (December & January). We disputed our \$400 bill in December which resulted in no bill being paid. We have since secured our old pricing.
- Employee appreciation gifts: \$15. Christmas cards for staff.

- **Moved** by A. Brideau, seconded by D. Zwicker, to approve the financial reports for January 2026. **Decision:** *Carried unanimously.*
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5. Correspondence

- None.

6. South Shore Lutheran Shared Ministry (SSLSM)

Shared South Shore Lutheran Ministry (SSLSM):

K. Field reported that the SSLSM met on January 13. The SSLSM website (SSLSM.ca) is maintained by Administrative Assistant Hillary Scott, and all website information, pastoral care requests, and pulpit supply coordination should be directed to her rather than individual pastors. Funeral homes have been advised to contact the church office or designated pastors. Emergency and weekly pastoral coverage is coordinated through Hillary. Snow cancellations may be issued by 7:00 a.m. on Sundays. Pastor Victoria is seeking volunteers for the planning committee and a youth event in June. The next SSLSM meeting will be held March 12 at 6:30 p.m., and reports will be included in the RAGM package. The Annual Meeting is March 8.

The upcoming Bishop's Table will be held Saturday, February 14, from 2–4 p.m. in Mahone Bay.

Council members will receive SSLSM reports. Fifth Sunday organist costs are covered by SSLSM. She noted that the Easter service schedule has now been posted.

7. Old Business

- **Use of Church by Non-Members**
The policy regarding the use of the church by non-members has been amended. Pastors will conduct services unless they decline. If declined, the funeral director, in consultation with the appropriate parties, will inform the pastor of the proposed service leader, who must approve or decline the arrangement. Funeral directors are required to notify the pastor if another individual is conducting the service.
- **Moved** by K. Field, seconded by K. Corkum, to approve the updated policy on the use of church by non-members. **Decision:** *Carried unanimously.*
- **Attic Clean UP** – May be scheduled for April (depending on weather). M. Robar to follow up on dumpster prices.
- **AGM** is scheduled for March 8th after the 9AM Service. 50 copies of the annual reports are being prepared prior to the meeting.

8. Ministry 'Team/Committee' Reports

8a. Property Team

Property & SSODA Update: M. Robar reported ongoing challenges scheduling a meeting with SSODA regarding the installation of additional electrical plugs upstairs. Repairs to the upstairs bathroom floor were completed due to water damage, including installation of a new membrane at a cost of \$3,400. Concerns were raised about cleanliness and the use of shared spaces, including the janitor's/laundry room and elevator area, with reports of unattended laundry and items left on the floor.

The dryer vent has now been permanently redirected outside. While SSODA installed the washer and dryer units, there remains a disagreement regarding electricity costs; council maintains that any additional electrical usage beyond the original lease should be SSODA's responsibility and is seeking reimbursement.

Negotiations regarding SSODA's use of church facilities are ongoing, with the current lease covering only the rooms presently occupied. Any additional space or expanded use would require a separate agreement, and concerns were noted regarding increased traffic and potential impact on church members. There are also concerns that the front entrance may become unusable after 5 p.m. due to SSODA clientele. The province has advised that privacy fencing is generally not recommended due to limited effectiveness elsewhere but may cover the cost if the church chooses to proceed. Bi-weekly meetings with the SSODA representative and manager are expected to address ongoing concerns.

One quote for the attic project was received but deemed too costly; additional quotes will be sought for insulation and related work. SSODA has acknowledged responsibility for damage to a door and siding. Bridgewater Glass assessed both the hall and church doors, noting the hall door may require replacement and that the church door threshold and hardware are worn and would need upgrading to meet current standards.

Council is also awaiting feedback on the potential purchase of an industrial six-burner stove with oven, estimated at approximately \$4,500.

Rogers is experiencing signal interference in the steeple and may require a system upgrade, potentially including a new antenna.

8b. Worship Ministry

Next meeting, Tuesday, February 10th.

8c. Stewardship Team

L. Wentzell will serve as Stewardship Chair. She reported that counting schedules for March and April were prepared. Concerns were raised about the East Coast Credit Union's new deposit packaging system, which is viewed as less secure; this will be addressed with the G. Tracy. Offering envelope usage has declined due to increased e-transfers, though e-transfers incur transaction fees for the church.

8d. Music Team

D. Zwicker reported that the choir will integrate basic music theory into regular rehearsals rather than offering separate classes. It was mentioned that one member is considering leaving due to feeling overwhelmed by music reading expectations. There is some disagreement regarding the introduction of new music, with some members preferring more familiar selections. It was noted that music choices are primarily made by the organist, in coordination with the pastors for specific services.

8e. HR Ministry

H.R. assessments are postponed until June to allow time for new contracts to take effect.

8f. Aesthetics Committee

Progress continues on the downstairs kitchenette; cabinets have been ordered and handles purchased. A. Joudrey and L. Wentzell completed painting, and the refrigerator was relocated to create additional space in the Sunday school room. S. Schnare has agreed to chair the Aesthetics Committee, and G. Schnare has joined the team.

8g. Connections Committee

The Verge House project is ongoing, with sign-up sheets available at both entrances. Donations are still being accepted and will be delivered on February 26th; Verge House has also requested support for their pantry and freezer. "Valentines for Rosedale" was coordinated through Hillary and the Shared Ministry, with cards mailed or dropped off. Senior outreach is planned for later in the spring.

9. New Business

9a. Camp Mush-a-mush

M. Robar gave a brief report on camp Mush.

9b. World Day of Prayer

St. Paul's will host the World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 6 at 2:00 p.m., led by O. Joudrey.

10. Closing Prayer and Adjournment:

- P. Oickle ended the meeting with a prayer; meeting adjourned at 11:37 A.M.