

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

**Date:** October 26, 2025

**Time:** 9:50 AM

**Prepared by:** S. Schnare

## Attending:

Peter Oickle, Chair  
Marshall Robar  
David Zwicker

Andre Brideau  
Sandra Schnare  
Pastor A. Smith

Karen Corkum  
Ann Joudrey

Karen Field  
Lucille Wentzell

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## 1. Call to Order / Opening Prayer

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

## 2. Approval of Agenda

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

## 3. Approval of Minutes

- **Moved** by S. Schnare, seconded by A. Joudrey, to approve the minutes of September 14, 2025. **Decision:** *Carried unanimously.*

## 4. Financial Report September 2025.

September general fund deficit: - **\$4,775**

- 2025 general fund deficit (Jan. 1 – Sep. 30): - **\$1,409**
- Accumulated general fund surplus: + **\$57,551**

## Income Statement Highlights:

- General fund offerings were down \$2,765 from September 2024. \$2,161 of this decrease is regular envelopes.
  - Room rentals: \$10,066. \$9,000 of that relates to SSODA. \$726 is Rogers Communications.
  - Unrestricted GIC interest \$400 relates to interest earned on the \$10,000 general fund GIC last year. This GIC was increased to \$40,000 so there will be increased interest earnings this time next year.
  - Pastor Salary: \$3,780 relates to South Shore Lutheran Shared Ministry. St. Paul's is paying for 6 services x \$630/service.
  - Repairs and maintenance: \$203 for Len's Plumbing relates to repairs to kitchen heat pump (leaking)
  - Parking lot refurbishment: \$11,991. \$11,556 of total relates to Halifax paving ditch and bank work. Remaining \$435 relates to parking area cement blocks along ditch/fence.
  - Software subscriptions: \$162. \$137 for MP3 conversion software for radio broadcast. \$25 for zoom.
  - Worship supplies: \$61 relates to printing for Shipyard Landing special service
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## 5. Old business

### 5a. South Shore Lutheran Shared Ministry (SSLSM)

#### K. Field reported on South Shore Lutheran Shared Ministry (SSLSM)

- The SSLSM team met on October 18 in Mahone Bay for a retreat and team-building session facilitated by Rev. Dr. Kimber McNabb. The group brainstormed future directions; these ideas will be shared with Council at a later date. The team will continue the strategic planning process at the November meeting.
- Received a presentation from Steve Broin on the **Reconciling in Christ (RIC)** program, focusing on acceptance and inclusion of all people regardless of sexual orientation, race, or colour. The SSLSM team must determine whether to adopt the RIC program for the 10 congregations. Adoption of RIC would involve a full congregational engagement process to assess readiness. RIC designation signifies that all individuals are welcome in the faith community and allows for public symbols of inclusion (e.g., Pride flag.)
- Reviewed storms protocol: decisions should be made by 4:00 p.m. the day before; ministers may make decisions for their respective churches.
- Annual Meeting scheduled for February; open to all SSLSM congregations.
- Discussed Crisis Fund; further discussion to take place under New Business.
- Christmas Eve services:
  - 4:00 p.m. – Lay Ministry service
  - 8:00 p.m. – Holy Communion with Pastor
- November 30 (Advent I): St. James (at the Branch LaHave Hall) and St. Luke's (Rhodes Corner) will hold café-style services at 10:30 a.m. Loose offerings from these services will be donated to the Salvation Army Christmas Families initiative.
- SSLSM approved a rate increase to \$661 per service.
- A Community Advent I service will be held at 3:00 p.m. at the Baptist Church; all congregations are invited to attend.

### 5b. Youth Ministry:

- **Young Adults Retreat**  
A meeting is scheduled for October 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at St. Paul's, with all churches invited. The retreat theme will be around water, and the event will hopefully take place at Camp Mush-a-Mush.
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## 6. Correspondence

- NONE
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## **7. Ministry Team Reports**

### **7a. Property Team**

M. Robar reported that the main church doors require replacement and that three posts in the parking lot fence also need to be replaced. He noted that SSODA is using additional rooms for office space, and the extra fees for this expanded use are still to be determined.

The committee noted concerns about the area where SSODA clients congregate being heavily littered with cigarette butts, as well as chairs being left in disarray near the church entrance. A suggestion was made to relocate the chairs to another area and to install a privacy fence.

### **7b. Worship Ministry**

K. Corkum reported that both the Friends of Creation and Orange Shirt Day services were well-received, and the first afternoon service on October 15 was enjoyed by those who attended. She noted that attendance at the Thanksgiving service was lower than usual. Some congregants and choir members continue to express concerns about Liturgy Setting 7. Five copies of All Creation Sings will be ordered for use at the 9:00 a.m. service. Upcoming services include the November 2 evening service coordinated by Pastor Annette, and the November 9 Remembrance Service planned by Pastor Victoria and Brian Carver, with Brian delivering the message. Donations for the Christmas hampers are being received. The Christmas Eve service will follow last year's format, and the December 28 9:00 a.m. service will feature readings and carols with D. Zwicker on organ. A discussion was held regarding funds received from the Friends of Creation of Lake Chad; a total of \$995 has been collected to date. Council will revisit the donation amount in January or February and prepare a brief report for the annual meeting.

### **7c. Stewardship Team**

- No report.
- L. Wentzell reported that she and S. Schnare will work with the Pastors on the St. Paul's webpage once the SSLSM webpage is completed.

### **7d. Music Team**

- No report.

### **7e. HR Ministry**

- No report.

### **7f. Esthetics Committee**

- No Report

## 8. New Business

### 8a. Same Sex Blessings

- S. Schnare began the discussion, noting that the current statement on Same Sex Blessings, developed in 2005, welcomes all people but defines marriage as “the exclusive union between a man and a woman.” After consultation with Pastor Annette and Pastor Victoria, the council discussed removing this restrictive sentence to ensure the statement is more inclusive, with support from the pastors. The updated statement will be presented to the congregation as an information item.

**Moved** by S. Schnare, seconded by L. Wentzell that the definition of marriage be removed from the statement regarding same sex blessings. **Decision:** *Carried with one abstention.*

### 8b. Use of Church by Non-Members (Policy DRAFT 1)

The Council engaged in a discussion of this item. The following items were noted:

- The policy should outline the use of church facilities by non-members for funerals, weddings, and other events, including applicable fees and procedures.
- A non-member is defined as anyone not listed on the church membership roll.
- Funerals for non-members are exempt from rental fees; however, related service costs still apply.
- The pastor must be involved in all communications and has the authority to approve or decline facility use.
- The pastor is expected to perform the service unless they choose to decline.
- The policy will be revised to clarify circumstances in which another pastor may assist.

### 8c. Crisis Fund

- The Council reviewed the administration and history of the Crisis Fund, noting that ministers traditionally oversee its use and that each church should establish clear policies. Currently, most decisions are made by the Church Administrative Assistant, though the fund has evolved from supporting church members in crisis to assisting those connected to St. Paul’s. Concerns were raised about past misuse—including issues with cash, gift cards, and increasing community requests—which led to the suspension of the gift card program and a shift toward directing individuals to St. Vincent de Paul and other community organizations better equipped to provide assistance.

The council discussed the need for clearer guidelines, particularly regarding who should administer the fund and how requests should be handled. Suggestions included having pastors assess requests, with larger expenses brought to council for approval, while ensuring confidentiality for members seeking help. It was agreed that the Administrative Assistant should have clear direction on responding to inquiries, including the option to state that funds are depleted. The council agreed to revisit this item.

### 8d. RCCO Service in Halifax

- D. Zwicker reported that he and several Choir members are interested in attending the RCCO (Royal Canadian College of Organists) event in October and inquired about financial support for transportation. Council agreed to cover the cost of a rental vehicle, if one can be secured to accommodate the group. If not, Council will approve mileage reimbursement for up to two private vehicles.

**Moved** by S. Schnare, seconded by A. Joudrey, that Council approve financial support for transportation for D. Zwicker and other Choir members to attend the 2026 RCCO event to be held in Halifax. **Decision:** *Carried unanimously.*

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**9. Closing Prayer and Adjournment:**

- K. Field gave the closing prayer.
- Meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM