

Atonement Council Minutes for February 26, 2026 at 7:00pm

Council Attendees (10/11)

Matt Badding (zoom)	Lyn Bowers	Angie Brickson
Genevieve Brown	Cathy Dykman-Acinger	Tim McCandless
Greg Moffitt	Jeremy Otto	Neil Pfeiffer
Dave Stelzer	Laura Trentadue	

Other Attendees

Pastor Zac Sturm, Toni Pearson, Nathan Choate (zoom), Pat Bjuland (zoom)

Opening Devotions – Dave Stelzer

- Reading from “The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion” by Jonathan Haidt (2012)

Friendly Fellowship – Matt Badding

- Everyone was invited to share their preference between watching the Summer or Winter Olympics.

President’s Direction – Cathy Dykman-Acinger

- For Lent, growing up Cathy’s family always did more and added more, rather than doing less or having less: more worship, more mindfulness, more kindness.
- Using “40 Intentional Acts of Connection” as a guide, Cathy has three things:
 - » Deepening Spiritual Connections by memorization of scripture: Lamentations 3:22-23
 - » Atonement Thank You Cards (there are 5), send at least one handwritten note of appreciation.
 - » Included a piece of candy as a reminder to “Don’t skip out on dessert” (Adult Education, etc.)

Monthly Ministry Highlight – Cathy Dykman-Acinger

Sunday Morning Welcome: Presentation of “The Welcoming Church” for engaging the ushers, greeters, and new “ninja connectors”.

- Is “welcome” and “add on” or an integral part of who we ARE?
- Hospitality examples are shown to us in the Bible.
 - » Examples: Genesis 18:1-5, Matthew 9:13
- First Impressions Matter, we set the tone.
 - » Video: “**Church Greeter Training: 7 Habits That Make Visitors Feel Welcome**” from REACHRIGHT
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JKNCJQELdHw>

- We have the power to:
 - » Make a difference in guests & seekers lives
 - » Help integrate new members so that they quickly become a part of the life of our congregation
 - » Transform and revitalize our church's spirit and vibe

January Minutes

- **MOTION #1:** (Greg Moffitt moves, Lyn Bowers seconds)
Motion to approve the council meeting minutes from January 22, 2026, with noted corrections.
 - 9 voting members present: **all verbal Ayes, no Nays, Motion Carries**

Pastor Report – Pastor Zac

- Lent has begun, Ash Wednesday and 1st midweek service has been very well attended.
 Dialectic theme is “Whom am I, I am”
- Capital Campaign will start the full congregation component two weeks after Easter
- Salem Lutheran Church cross participating has started this Lent, they brought 40 people to the first midweek service. First three weeks are at Atonement, the second two weeks are at Salem. The next time the two sub-council teams meet is March 8, we'll plan to discuss inviting Salem to share the sanctuary for the summer – inviting Salem to hold a late service and Atonement holding an early/combined service. Both services will be offered to both congregations and we'll plan to have a shared fellowship & coffee time in-between the two services.

Receiving New Members

- In March, we will be welcoming new members that will be joining Atonement:
 Chris & Deanna Seiwert; Bishop Donna, Colleen, & Dominic Simon; Dan & Amy Unmacht;
 Mark & Jake Schwamb-Wurtz
- **MOTION #2:** (Tim McCandless moves, Greg Moffitt seconds)
Motion to receive the 9 new members that will be joining Atonement on March 1, 2026.
 - 9 voting members present: **all verbal Ayes, no Nays, Motion Carries**

Ministry Reports

- Read through each Staff Report's "Requested Support from Council", items of note:
 - » Please continue to greet people after and before worship.
 - » There are quite a few communication items coming up this next month: Easter, Horizons, etc.
 - » KFam: Upcoming plans for Easter Week, Bible Class for adults
 - » YFam: Upcoming Summer Plans
 - » Continuing to work on process to create (and annually review) a charter document for each lay team committee.
 - » The organ is continuing to be monitored, Summer 2027 will be a good time to do the repairs.

Treasurer's Report – Mike Daley & Tim McCandless

January 2026

Topline & Giving

- January ended \$2,000 better than budget, with a deficit of \$45K
- General Fund giving was \$13,000 below budget
- Dedicated giving to Campus Sustainment was \$1,500
- January notes:
 - Cash balances are low primarily due to transfers to Campus Sustainment (January transferred the full \$12,500). To manage cash flow for 2026, we plan to stagger the contributions to Campus Sustainment to match up with the months where we expect higher giving.
 - The advanced giving balance is 46,000 which is surprisingly \$38,000 lower than last January. Hopefully this just means quarter giving is coming in February.

Balance Sheet

- Cash balances for January ended:
 - \$86,000 in unrestricted cash (prior month: \$114,000)
 - \$354,000 in restricted cash (prior month: \$356,000)
 - \$440,000 total (prior month: \$469,000)
 - \$40K free cash balance: *Unrestricted Cash of \$86K includes advanced giving of \$46K.*
- Advanced giving balance is \$46,000 (prior month: \$29,000)
- Campus Sustainment is at \$215,000 (prior month: \$201,000)

Budget

- Expenses were \$16,000 better than budget with the following line-item variances noted:
 - Better: Communication \$1,000 ⇒ due to timing
 - Better: Office Supplies \$3,000 ⇒ due to timing
 - Better: Payroll \$3,000 ⇒ due to lower hourly pay
 - Better: Property \$7,500 ⇒ due to timing of snow removal
 - Better: Utilities \$900 ⇒ due to lower KCP&L costs from December warmer weather
 - Better: Worship \$1,300 ⇒ due to timing
 - Better: all other categories \$700
- Year-to-date general expenses are \$15,600 better budget.
- Year-to-date general fund giving is \$13,000 worse than budget.
- Year-to-date deficit actual is \$45,070 (year-to-date deficit plan was -\$47,470).
- Year-to-date total variance is \$2,400 better than budget.

Mission Investment Fund Loan Update – Tim McCandless

- They are finishing the Title search and should be ready to sign and close soon.

Operations & Properties Report – Toni Pearson & Dave Stelzer

- Toni created a new request form for projects paid out from Campus Sustainment Funds.

Six projects have been detailed on the new form and requesting the Council to approve:

- Quarterly Deep Cleaning of main areas of the church, estimated \$2,730
 - Annual Tile & Grout Steam Cleaning, including sanctuary, entry ways, bathrooms, estimated \$3,762
 - Annual Carpet Stain Removal in hallways, offices, Narthex, Gathering Place, estimated \$695
 - Replace the Sink Pump in the Education-wing Lower Level, estimated \$3,675
 - Replace & restore the flooring in the Education-wing Lower Level, estimated \$30,500
 - Replace the Ice Maker in the Kitchen, estimated \$2,900
- **MOTION #3:** (Tim McCandless moves, Dave Stelzer seconds)
Motion to approve Toni Pearson, Director of Operations, to complete the six projects presented for the cost approximating \$44,500 to be paid from the Campus Sustainment Fund.
 - 9 voting members present: **all verbal Ayes, no Nays, Motion Carries**

Up Next & Open Discussion

- Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Celebration is scheduled for March 14th after Saturday evening service.
- Reminder to wear your badge, greet new visitors, and to help staff the Welcome Center.

Closing Prayer

- **In My Life, Lord (Lord be Glorified)**, Emmaus Music, ©1978 Bob Kilpatrick Ministries, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e5bpU3hzMXs>

Adjourn at 8:43pm

Recorded by: Neil Pfeiffer

Submitted for council review: 03/25/2026

Approved: 03/26/2026