

St. Peter's United Methodist Church

Church Council Meeting

March 08, 2026

People Present

Brian Davis, Holli Forlines, Kendall Covington, Noah Parks, Gretchen Nelson, Mike Williams, Tom Gilman, Anna Williams, Leon Stockwell, Dani Stockwell

Note taking was done by Noah Parks

Introductions and opening prayers were done by Pastor Gretchen.

Financial Updates

Mike Williams presented the changes to the balance sheet and profit & loss statements. Per Mike, the investment account at Truist has been closed and redistributed to the building funds.

It was noted that the total current assets dropped due to a drop in the donations received than what was expected. Per Mike, there were a smaller number of deposits during the first two months of this year. There has been a delay in payments that were realized by the bank in March rather than February. The church has had an operating loss for the first two months of this year. Total expenditures are comparable to the prior year's first two months of the year. Per review of the prior year, the donations and pledge amounts to the budget were lower than the prior year. Donations exceeded the expectation for items that do not directly contribute to the budget.

One way that the expenses were increased the past two months is due to the HVAC expenses being paid annually rather than monthly contributing to the increased expenses.

The church's "In-kind" donations have been working and in use for the church operations.

Board of Trustees

Old business

Per Anna, the board of trustees have fixed the outstanding issues related to the preschool for the ceiling tiles for preschool, thermostat, and leaking water.

New Business

Per Anna, the keypad needs to be replaced for the fellowship hall. The expected price for the product and installation for \$3,000 for keycard and punch code access. Leon suggested that this needs to be addressed sooner rather than later. Kendall motioned to approve and Holli seconded the motion, motion passed. The building fund will be used to fund this transaction. Per Anna, Cathy and Brian Morgan are expected to provide a "substantial" donation that will contribute to church operations. Trustees are asking for pricing on painting the sanctuary, roof, carpeting, and parsonage HVAC.

Per Anna, the septic systems have been pumped for both the church and parsonage have been done recently. The timing is where both locations receive this service at the same time. The next time this will occur is five (5) years from now.

Mission Board Kendall

Per Kendall, the canned goods for the super bowl have been collected and sent off to WHEAT.

Per Kendall, the potential paper shredder event would cost around \$900 dollars to start. It might be better to place this item on hold for the time being. Additionally, the "Rise Against Hunger" event is coming up. The church still needs about \$5,000 to raise before this event. The scouts are willing to take part in this event.

Preschool Report

Per Holli, the preschool has hired a new teacher. Additionally, the preschool has made about \$1,000 since the start of the year.

Per Leon, there was a toilet handle that was replaced. There is a possible leak, but Leon was unable to locate the leak.

Community Events

Per Brian, should the Community Dinner be promoted? There has been little to move this forward since the last meeting. The church expects to get this started on April 1, 2026. It was noted that this date is located during spring break for the schools. Suggested time at 6:00PM. \$5 per person with a \$20 max per group.

Pastoral Update

Per Pastor Gretchen, the church is going to start a game night on March 20th with an anticipated time of 5:30. This will be a community event for two hours located at the church.

Gretchen is hoping to host more events to train members in leadership activities as well as christian values. No specific timelines were mentioned.

Per Kendal, the clothes closet is coming up and we want the weeks leading up to this to be the focus of our announcements.

Gretchen has reached out to the scouts regarding "Scout Meals" an event related to the boy and girl scouts and hosting a meal for them. The parents of the scouts have suggested additional ideas. No conclusion has been reached at this time. Ideas from the scouts include

- Having the scouts cook for the church and have the church prepare a meal for the scouts
- A meal competition among the scouts to see who's meal tastes better.
- A possible joint venture with the newly introduced community meal on the first wednesdays of each month.

Per Leon, it was previously introduced that the church has a sister church where we visit a local church and they would visit us. No progress has been made on this event.

Children & Youth Ministries

Per Gretchen, she has been reaching out to the local community regarding the vacant position for the youth and music minister. There are multiple offers out all across the region, with little to no response.

Per Dani, there is typically a Missions trip during the summer. No leader has come forward so we will need volunteers.

- Art camps emerged out of Bible School. Jen did the art camps out of her own initiative outside of the contract. As of now, these do not exist.
- The summer programs are currently vacant.
- Possibly hire someone to be the mission leader. It does require a background. Budgeted for funds to pay for it.
- Background check would be required.
- Would there be interest from the church body in volunteering for a Bible experience during the summer for the community? Planning, snacks, lessons, etc. minimum of 2 people

Men's Group Update

Per Butch, our trailer was stolen and is back where it belongs. The Men's Group has purchased signs to help advertise various events. The Men's Group is expecting to provide a meal after the Easter sunrise service. Per Leon, there is leftover Brunswick stew. The group is hoping to donate the remaining food to local charities.

Leon has suggested that the meeting scheduled in September be pushed from the 13th to the 20th.

Meeting Schedule and Food Preparation

| <u>Date of Meeting</u> | <u>Preparation</u> |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| May 17, 2026 | Davis |
| July 12, 2026 | Forlines |
| September 20, 2026 | Wiggins |
| November 8, 2026 | Davis |

Closing Prayer & Adjournment
Done by Pastor Gretchen.