

# PCCUCC Church Council Meeting Minutes January 19th, 2025

11:30AM | Church Conference Room and via Zoom

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Join Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88009256284?pwd=Z3BNSVQzc3EyM0hteENJSks5Sm4rdz09>

Meeting ID: 880 0925 6284 Passcode: 706376

## 2025 Council Members and Areas of Focus

Pat Herman	Financial
Rhea-Joy Simonich	Apple Tree Preschool
Shawn Hillman	Operations & UCC Connection
Elizabeth Ormes	Memorial Board
Jim & Tina Andry	Member at Large
Joan Caton	Community Outreach
Barbara Newton	Membership & Welcoming
Ginny Noble	Congregational Life
Rev. Joe Newton	Attending Clergy (tie breaker vote only)

## AGENDA

- Establish Attendance and Council Quorum (5 members required)
- Review and Approval of previous meeting minutes
- Office Manager Report (Sharon via Barb)
- Memorial Board Report (Elizabeth / Pat)
- Operations Report (Shawn)
- Financial Report (Pat)
- Membership & Welcoming
- Congregational Life
- Community Outreach
- Apple Tree Report (Rhea-Joy)
- Pastor Report
- IL Conference & Eastern Association News (Shawn)
- Calendar Review (All)
- Old Business
- New Business
- Closing Prayer
- Next Meeting Confirmation & Leader

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### MINUTES

Meeting started at 12:30ish

Establish Attendance and Council Quorum (5 members required)

x	Pat Herman
	Rhea-Joy Simonich
x	Shawn Hillman
	Elizabeth Ormes
x	Tina Andry
x	Joan Caton
x	Barbara Newton
x	Ginny Noble
x	Rev. Joe Newton
x	<b>Guests:</b> (list guests) Peg, Mars, Kyle, Mark, Sam

#### Review and Approval of December minutes

- Review: Shawn made correction to operations statement about 'waiting on Sharon for sound system update'. We are not waiting on Sharon for anything, the sound system is simply on our to-do list for church improvements.
- Various other spelling and grammatical changes
- Motion to approve with changes as noted: Shawn Seconded: Joan. Approved

#### Office Manager Report (Sharon)

- Reports, weekly Faith Times eblast, electronic sign maintenance, prayer chain notifications, and weekly worship bulletins. Upgraded Faith Times by learning updated software to enhance formatting options.
- Facility Rentals for both long-term and one-time clients including Arise Chicago, The Dulcimer Group, Plainfield Pride, TOPS, Serendipity Group, Voices in Plainfield (VIP – formerly known as Spectrum Singers) and various private rentals for family events and meetings. Note: This process has become entirely more efficient with the installation of

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the programmable kitchen door lock and the ability of clients to pay via our PayPal link. I am able to reply with immediate answers for potential renters without long approval timelines and confirm that payments are made in advance of events.

- Beginner Computer Classes for all PCCUCC Members and Friends. Class content was well received by our 3 participants. Samantha Gerth's co-teacher knowledge and input was invaluable. Weekly classes were held from 4/10/24 through 5/15/24.
- EAC Eastern Association Conference volunteerism – Resigned my position as Recording Secretary in August after two years of service. Was re-recruited by the Nominating Committee in December to serve on the By-Laws Committee for the Illinois Conference for 2025 for a one year term.
- Apple Tree – volunteered to do their web site maintenance indefinitely.
- Advent Meditation on Facebook with Andrea Hendron. Andrea graciously agreed to provide her expertise on this brand new ministry. They were well received by members and our greater on-line community.
- Continued communication enhancements including a new venue for any members or friends to be able to suggest hymns for worship through our Worship Planning link we currently use for liturgists, speakers, and communion volunteer tracking. We also now use Meal Train software when members or friends are in need of help during difficult times. Very efficient and easy to use.
- Misc: Also in January, ants reported in AT hallway by carport door and in FH. Goldstar came out and sprayed next day. New renter experience went well and they gave us an ADDITIONAL donation above and beyond their rental fee.

### Memorial Board Report (Elizabeth / Pat)

- Current Balance: \$43,596.19
- Brief review and description of the Memorial Fund for guests

### Operations Report (Shawn)

- Activity Notes:
  - New A/V computer has been purchased and is up and running.
  - Handyman review - will be called in for more work soon.
  - Bob Mason working on vacuum cleaners and other small touch points around the church (*mainly meeting with vendors or inspection people that need church access*)
  - Window in Apple Tree classroom was replaced over Christmas Break
  - Annual testing to be done for Fire Alarm, Water Backflow Valve. Shawn, Mark, Bob, and Pat are working through this.
  - Ants are back this week. Will be in touch with Goldstar to come back in
  - Cleaning Crew updates: Apple Tree concerns are passed along when shared.
  - Main ring doorbell camera not working. Mark working on this but probably needs replaced

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### Financial Report (Pat)

- Review Abbreviated Financials, Church Balance, Church Funds, Treasurer's Report
- Notes / Discussion
  - 2024: +\$3,641 income vs. expenses

### Membership & Welcoming (Barb)

- Great year with consistent # of visitors. Barb is connecting with visitors as she gets information. Visitors have been very active in the life of the church.
- Request for Barb to formalize the additional materials and items that she is using and planning on using (*bi-lingual flyers, etc.*).

### Community Outreach (Joan)

- Hope Day
  - A lot of returning guests, who are now actively participating with donations and clean up. We're witnessing a lot of guests now ministering to each other!
  - The community is seeing what is happening. We're getting help from other churches too.
  - There will be a celebration for Hope Day volunteers this spring at Catons. Details to come.
  - Mark has received a couple of quotes for new metal Hope Day signs, and will be comparing and then choosing.
- Plainfield Community Alliance (PCA) - Joan will speak with them about a kindness movement for Plainfield. Joan will include the Mayor in this.

### Apple Tree Report (Rhea-Joy / Madelyn / Barb / Lisa B.)

- Registration for 2nd semester: Okay (estimated down by 1 student)
- Financials: Ending Balance as of close of previous month: \$21,080
- AT requests flyers about our church and ministries to share
- If AT creates flyers or promotional info about the school, we (PCCUCC) can help promote
- Apple Tree will be working on assessing the basement stuff (*to go through and clean up*).

### Congregational Life (Ginny)

- Christmas decoration cleanup was today (1/19). Success
- 12/29 'Game Night' was a success. Request to have this be a regular occurring thing (1x / month). Ginny will plan. Tentatively 2nd Sunday of month. Start in March (9th) at 4pm
- Feed My Starving Children: Next packing event is March 8-9. Will ask Sharon to add to Faith Times & Calendar

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### Pastor Joe Report:

- Confirmation Class has started.
  - This is Joe's first time doing this and is structuring it loosely. Planning on going through to ~October, and will involve a group project. Designing to have it be a walkthrough of people's 'faith story', involving the entire church.
  - Confirmation is taking a lot more time than originally anticipated. Going to be a pain to track as an hourly stipend amount, Joe requests paid as a general stipend of \$3,000
    - Discussion: Council moves to have executive session after to discuss Stipend Request
  - Joe will update council each month on confirmation class progress
  - Joe asks the council and church be open to hearing from confirmation class on their needs.
- Other updates
  - Joe is gaining some spiritual clarity after a few weeks of being down

### IL Conference and EA Business News (Shawn)

- Shawn News & Notes from IL Conference and Eastern Association
  - No new updates. Both EA and IL Conf. will have meetings between now and next Council meeting, Shawn will have updates.
- Shawn will still provide updates to Council for 2025, though he will not be ON council.

### Calendar Review (All)

<https://www.plainfielducc.org/calendar>

<https://www.apple-tree-preschool.com/calendar>

### Old Business

- Garbage Costs: Going back down after a spike in costs in November.
- Choir: Still working on reviving the choir on regular basis. Was delayed in January due to illness
  - Going to sing 1x/month
  - Choir members in council discuss leading some hymns.

### New Business

- This Saturday (1/25). Discussed what all needs to be moved off carpet areas to prep for cleaning. Apple Tree will be helping with the lounge items.

**Executive Session:** Discussion of Pastor Joe's request of \$3,000 stipend for Confirmation Class leadership.

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### ADJOURN

- Motion by All Seconded by All  
Adjourn Time: 2:03 pm

### Closing Prayer

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### Meeting Leader schedule:

- February - Annual Meeting
- March 16th - Joan
- April - TBD
- May - TBD
- June -