

PCCUCC Church Council Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2025
11:30AM | Church Conference Room and via Zoom

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)
- Operations Report (Shawn)
- Financial Report (Pat)
- Memorial Board Report (Elizabeth / Pat)
- Membership & Welcoming
- Congregational Life
- Community Outreach (Joan)
- 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

PCCUCC Church Council Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2025

11:30AM | Church Conference Room and via Zoom

MINUTES

Meeting started at 11:40am (Zoom started and ran until 1:20, but no one joined)

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	Guests: (list guests) Mark Gerth Samantha Gerth John Hogan Becky Colwell-Ongenae Peg Glenn Andrea Hendron

Review and Approval of September minutes

- Motion to approve: Joan Seconded: Barb All Approved

Office Manager Report (Sharon)

1. Joe is out 11/2, 11/9 and 11/16. Justin Ongenae will be doing Children's Moments for those Sundays, and I've already updated the Worship Planning software, but was curious if we had a list of speakers for those 3 upcoming dates?
2. Also, regarding the worship calendar there's been some duplicate volunteers for Fellowship Hour and Communion since two lists are maintained (written one at church and the online volunteer request software) but it was decided by those in charge to leave both options open. Diane Peterson will update me on Fellowship

PCCUCC Church Council Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2025

11:30AM | Church Conference Room and via Zoom

hour sign-ups and Pat provides me with Communion servers so I can put them into the system.

3. God bless Susan Winter. I have already make the appropriate changes to the CW database and the statistics spreadsheet. I've heard there won't be a service for a couple of weeks, but let me know if there's any updates please so I can make sure the appropriate rooms for services are blocked off.
 - a. Discussion: Joe has reached out to Susan's step-daughter with availability. There are questions and things to coordinate.
 - b. Joan - note that Sue Davis and Joann want to contribute funds toward meal
4. I'm reaching out again to see if there are any Christmas/holiday events to post on the calendar. Just today I had a request for an all day event on 11/23. We already had 3 events on that day, and am waiting to see if they have an alternate date request, but we have to give church activities priority. For example, are we doing the turkey dinner again this year?
 - a. YES - doing combination of Thanksgiving dinner & family game night on 11/9. 5pm
 - b. Hanging of the greens on 11/23 after congregational meeting. Adding in luncheon
 - c. 11/29-30: Craft Show (Diane Petersen to coordinate with Pat, Ginny, etc.)
5. Faith Times - it would be great to have summary updates on our past events (like Plainfield Pridefest). We are also due for a high level financial update, especially with a congregational meeting coming up on 11/23.
6. Calendar
 - a. Voices in Plainfield has scheduled a practice for this Saturday, 10/18 from 4-8.
 - b. Our returning private party renter Ida, had another successful family event this past Saturday. A couple of hiccups with the kitchen door codes when she needed access the day before, but due to immediate responses from Ops team, they were resolved quickly.
 - c. Question - since there is no more afternoon preschool, are we OK to use afternoon times for rentals to help increase our rental income stream?
 - i. *Should discuss with Apple Tree, as they are looking at trying to do more afternoon activities here*

Operations Report (Shawn)

- We have experienced rodent issues this week, with the changing of the weather and turning on our boilers again. Todd is on top of things. Suggestion from guest for a company they work with. Shawn to follow up offline.
- Dumpsters currently do not have locks. Contemplating whether needed or not. Shawn will monitor and possibly renegotiate contract.
- New cleaning company service is going well.

PCCUCC Church Council Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2025

11:30AM | Church Conference Room and via Zoom

- Sound system should be arriving within the next few weeks. Will be scheduling installation for November.
- Looking ahead: Shawn looking at Solar panels (just beginning this process).

Financial Report (Pat)

- Reviewed Abbreviated Financials, Church Balance, Church Funds, Treasurer's Report
 - Sept. Income: \$7,810 vs. budget \$12,345
 - Sept. Expenses: \$13,079 vs. Budget \$10,461
 - Maintenance and Insurance was our quarterly payment
 - General Operating Fund: \$143,168.91- Pat notes this is the church's liquid monies to use toward priorities and what we want to contribute/finance.
- Notes: Elizabeth doing most A/P now, diving into more and Pat is very thankful.

Memorial Board Report (Elizabeth / Pat)

- Current Balance: \$39,714 (\$40,405 in Edward Jones)
- Activity Notes: No activity

Membership & Welcoming (Barb)

- Report: Talking with the mother daughter (Karen & Claudia) pair that has been coming. They are interested in joining. Other regulars also showing interest, but will be some time. Confirmation Sunday next week and everyone is very excited.
- Notes / Discussion:

Congregational Life (Ginny)

- Report: Church-wide turkey dinner on 11/9 (5pm) in lieu of game night. Ginny will have sign up beginning next week for sides (Turkey and potatoes covered)
- Notes / Discussion: The last game night was sparsely attended.

Community Outreach (Joan)

- Reports:
 - Hope Day
 - October event: 114 guests, and with volunteers we had 130 people!
 - Some changes in layout coming due to capacity constraints
 - Need to get Maximum Capacity of room. Pat to talk to fire department
 - Should remind people of evacuation and emergency procedures
 - Discussion of things to be mindful of, and changes to be occurring around Hope Day (*accessibility, emergency preparedness, etc.*)
 - Plainfield Community Alliance (PCA) / Local Needy
 - Discussion on communications with folks reaching out in need. Will continue directing to interview with Joe if asking for help.

PCCUCC Church Council Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2025

11:30AM | Church Conference Room and via Zoom

- PrideFest Event (Shawn)
 - Low traffic at booth, but overall good experience. Many folks are from out of town.
 - Guest: suggestion to take part in other area PrideFests too (*Joliet, etc.*)

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

- AT happy with ring camera access and help from Mark & Samantha
- AT granted 3 scholarships recently.
- Will be providing staff application report
- New parent rep on board: Jessica L.
- Recent fundraiser was a success
- Afternoon activity: Apple Club
 - 16 kids signed up. Class time is 1:15. Charge for classes/programs
- Haunted Hallways is happening next week

Pastor Joe Report:

- Next Sunday 10/26 is Confirmation Sunday
- Joe then on vacation 11/2,9,and16; Returning to town on 16th and available, and will be back leading worship the 23rd. Shawn making worship arrangements in interim.
- Blue Christmas 12/14 4pm. Worship and Fellowship.
- Christmas Eve worship 7pm

IL Conference and EA Business News (Shawn)

- Eastern Association fall worship service and celebration here at Plainfield on 9/27 was a huge success. Profound thanks again to our church family for the time and help.
 - Shawn still needs to file for reimbursement of food (` \$250)
 - We made ~\$265 from the day's offering (our split with Church World Service ministry)
- We now have 'Emergency Response / Disaster Relief Buckets' from the conference. Shawn needs to connect with Roger Dart for further instruction. These buckets may need some attention
- The first meeting of the 2025-26 Eastern Association Council was this week. We're planning a year focused on reconnecting our member churches with each other.
- The Illinois Conference Annual Celebration is Oct. 30th - Nov. 1st. The main bulk of activities will be that Friday/Saturday. Information on how to register is in the 'Faithful Fridays' newsletter from the conference that Sharon forwards.
 - Registration spots are still available

Calendar Review (All)

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

PCCUCC Church Council Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2025

11:30AM | Church Conference Room and via Zoom

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

- Thanksgiving dinner + Game Night 11/9 5pm
- Congregational Meeting, luncheon, hanging of the greens: 11/23
- New Member Celebration 12/14
- Blue Christmas 12/14 4pm
- Christmas Eve worship 7pm

Old Business

- Condom Flier
 - Needs approved. Reviewed offline since last meeting
 - VOTE to approve posting flyer and having condoms available. Decided to do on shelf high up on shelves. Shawn to have Todd build. Motion: Shawn, Second: Joan. Approved.
- Pride Group additional night add
 - \$10/\$15 for

New Business

- Congregational Meeting Agenda Items
 - Emergency Preparedness - review of procedures
 - Discussion of pews
 - Vote to remove 3 rows of pews
 - Whomever is presenting, point out use of space possibilities that include - but is not limited to - Hope Day.
 - JP & John have friend that has experienced this and could speak to it.
 - Will need committee to look at chairs
- Brush and Burn pile
 - Too big to have bonfire on the spot. Need to look at pairing down, alternative way to rid of brush/debris.
- Personnel Search Committee
 - Noted that search committee is underway and meeting regularly (Elizabeth, Joan, Shawn, Barb, Mark)
- Reporting on PMA/Requests for assistance to the church
 - Peg: Do we have an intake form set up when people ask for assistance?
 - Discussion: Not really. Continue directing to Joe.
- Hope Days use of the sanctuary
 - Discussed under Hope Day
- Building Bright Futures Updates
 - No updates

PCCUCC Church Council Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2025

11:30AM | Church Conference Room and via Zoom

ADJOURN

- Motion by All Seconded by All. Approved.
Adjourn Time: 1:38pm

Closing Prayer - Joe

Moderator of the Month: 12 month rolling schedule

- November (11/16) - Pat
- November Congregational Meeting 11/23 - Elizabeth & Shawn
- December - Tina
- January - Shawn
- February - Annual Meeting
- March - *TBD*
- April - *TBD*
- May - *TBD*
- June - *TBD*
- July - *TBD*
- August - *TBD*
- September - *TBD*
- October - *TBD*