

SOM Church Council Meeting Minutes

August 11, 2025

1. Opening Prayer

- We opened the meeting with silent prayer.

2. Approval of July Council Meeting Minutes

- A motion was introduced by Ann and seconded by Stephanie. All moved to approve.

3. Agenda Topics

a. Committee Reports and Updates

i. Pastor Report

1. Pastor Derek was on vacation and not in attendance at the meeting.

ii. Finance

1. Dave reported YTD through July, we are on par with income vs. budget.
2. We will include a new expense of \$200 per month for Pastor attending the PC Rotary meetings in 2025. We will review this expense in the 2026 budget planning process. Attendance is an excellent opportunity for networking in the community.
3. The 2026 budget will be presented and voted on at the November 16th congregational meeting. Materials will be sent out in advance.

a. Some key dates:

- i. October 20: Dave to send prior year budget and previous 12 months budget statements to committee heads. Committee heads are asked build budgets for their functional area.
- ii. October 27: Committee heads provide preliminary budgets to Dave.
- iii. November 3: Dave to provide preliminary budget to Council for review and discussion.

iii. Worship

1. Stephanie presented a document detailing a safety plan for SOM. Next steps are:
 - a. Provide feedback to Stephanie re: document and moving forward with emergency plan policy/execution.
 - i. A motion was introduced to name Ken Williams as Safety Plan Trainer. Dave seconded the motion and all were in favor. One possible next step is to provide training for the ushers after the plan is approved as they will serve as the primary point of contact.
 - ii. Add item to the November congregational meeting.
 - iii. Incorporate safety plan into Shining Stars preschool safety protocol.
2. Polka Mass (October 26, 2025)
 - a. Stephanie and team welcome additional feedback from Pastor re: service format as there are several moving parts, i.e., Reformation Sunday, Confirmation Sunday, etc.
 - b. There is an opportunity to have an informal choir lead the congregation in music and songs for the special day.

iv. Property (update provided by Dave):

1. Most beds are in use at the community gardens.
2. The Comcast changeover should happen within the next few weeks. Our estimated savings will be \$150 per month and will include triple the download speed via Comcast.
3. Phase One of the new sign installation is pending on permit approval from the Summit County Building Commission. Phase Two (rock work, landscaping, etc.) will commence after Phase One is complete.
4. We still have work to do to clean up the willow trees that are impeding the view of SOM's entrance. Discussions are taking place with the property owners next door to SOM.

v. Social Ministry/Fellowship

1. Ann provided an update on the three September events: ALZ Walk; Clean-Up of Glenwood Cemetery; and the Mirror Lake Highway Cleanup (waiting for approval from the Fire Department).
2. The mobile food pantry will be operational on August 20th with members of SOM in attendance.
3. Additional details will be provided to the congregation in November re: the Angel Tree Program and the late November/early December “Sub for Santa Party”.
4. The Social/Fellowship Committee meeting is held after church services on the first Sunday of each month.

vi. Youth/Ed

1. Effective Fall 2025, Sydney will assume responsibility for the Sunday School Program at SOM. Sunday school will now be longer in duration as we phase out the children’s sermon. The children will join the congregation for communion through the end of the service.

vii. Other Business

1. Laurie had asked for a brief discussion re: Shining Stars to understand SOM’s relationship with the preschool. A few comments:
 - a. We are in year two of a three-year lease. We may want to consider/evaluate a rent increase during the next lease negotiations.
 - b. We would also like to consider including some rules/suggestions in the new lease, i.e., keeping toys, gates, etc., neatly stored in the back or side of the building to enable a “cleaner, neater” look in the front of the church.

Next Meeting

September 8, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Closing Prayer and Adjourn

