

**Desert Cross Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2026**

Minutes taken by: Marie Ihlefeld

Meeting start time: 7:01 PM

Meeting end time: 8:13 PM

Attendees:

Council - Present	Absent	Pastors/Staff - Present
Gail Dempsey	Pr. Andrea Cain	Pr. Thadd Book
Vicki English	Mari Johnson	
Brent Borchers		
Anna Sion		
Marie Ihlefeld		
Tony Tainter		
Sue Eberle		
MaryBeth LaMont		
Mark Farrell		

Devotions: Gail Dempsey

Approval of February Agenda

- **First:** Tony Tainter
- **Second:** Gail Dempsey
- **Unanimously Approved – Motion Carried**

Approval of January Minutes (with change to Chamber I-help host date and close out of 2025, not 2026, financials)

- **First:** Tony Tainter
- **Second:** Gail Dempsey
- **Unanimously Approved – Motion Carried**

Team Updates:

1. **Director of Operations and Property Report:** Brent Borchers (Doug is out)

- **Tempe Land Sale Update:** Escrow is still open for land sale, no update on closing date. Haven't heard back from the city.
- January financials are incomplete, Doug is working on closing out 2025 financials.

2. **Financial Committee Report:** Brent Borchers

- Brent will be requesting tellers at the Congregational meeting. May get an old list of tellers from Doug to ask if any of the former tellers are still interested.
- Reviewed an example of a property condition assessment. It could cost 10-15k in total to get an assessment done of both campuses. Doug has more information on the ages and sizes of all our A/C's.
- Tony is working with Doug and Brent on best ways to report mortgage payments. Principal & interest payment reporting. Debt servicing may be a better term than debt reduction for the reports.

Vote to Approve Financial Report:

- **First:** Tony Tainter
- **Second:** MaryBeth LaMont
- **Unanimously Approved – Motion Carried**

3. **President's Report** Vicki English

- **Update on Gilbert Refresh Town Hall Meetings:** The town hall in Gilbert was well attended. The town hall in Tempe had ~8 people in attendance & there were technical difficulties with the audio. The capital campaign, if approved, would be matched dollar for dollar with the Capital Expense Fund. Thank you MaryBeth for making the ballots for the Refresh vote.
- **Annual Meeting:** Try to attend the annual meeting on February 22nd in person, if possible. There were technical difficulties with some of the online voting at December's meeting. We need mic runners and the council members to help count the Gilbert Refresh capital campaign votes.

4. **Pastor Reports:**

- **Pr. Thadd:**
 - Lent is here! Ash Wednesday is this week. We have a noon and 7pm service in Tempe and a 7pm service in Gilbert. There is no meal with the Ash Wednesday service. The Lenten theme is: "Unbound Searching for Wholeness". There are 5 Wednesday night meals with a nice service similar to Lent last year, at both Tempe and Gilbert.

- There are a number of baptisms coming up. Two boys (brothers) will be baptized and Maddie Lundberg will be baptized in March.
- First communion classes are planned for Saturday February 21st. The letter went out to 3rd graders but some older or younger kids are included in the first communion class.
- The Synod Spring gathering is Saturday morning in Tempe from 9 to noon. The Theme is “Rooted in God’s Story”.
- The HymnSing is scheduled for March 1st. A taco bar will follow.
- A youth group is planning to come from Colorado Springs this summer. They were planning to come during VBS week but that won’t work for them to stay. Now they are planning June 2-7th but this is during the set up for VBS, so looking for a place for them to stay.
- Youth group is planning a mission trip likely to Flagstaff at the end of June.

5. Endowment: Vicki No new business at Endowment’s January meeting - there could be a new request in April.

6. Gilbert Chamber Report: Mari Johnson/Tony Tainter

- Can Tempe also get the congregational survey that Gilbert is getting? Yes, it is not site-specific. The Gilbert Town Hall to discuss the survey is planned for April.
- Wendy is working on business cards. The internet was out for 3 days which affected a lot of the staff’s work.
- The Gilbert portion of the annual report was sent to Doug
- Finance guys said, if needed, there is still money left from the loan to go toward an A/C replacement.
- Hymn sing planned for March 1st at 4pm
- Come to Tempe for the Annual Meeting February 22nd and tell your friends.
- Planning a craft fair/market in November. Vendors from the church or community would rent a table for a flat rate. This is a great community engagement event.

**Move to Allow a Gilbert Market (craft fair) to take place in November 2026.
Determine at a future discussion/vote what to do with any money raised.**

- **First:** Brent Borchers
- **Second:** Gail Dempsey
- **Unanimously Approved - Motion carried**

7. Stewardship Pr. Thadd Met and sent out thank yous. Thinking about next year’s theme. We would like to dig into the numbers with Doug’s help to determine how last year’s stewardship drive was so successful.

8. Project Updates: Vicki No project Updates

9. Program (Staff) Reports/Questions: No questions

10. Old Business: Vicki

- **Prep for Congregational Meeting in February/Nominating Committee:** already discussed in president's report

11. New Business Vicki

- **Council Lent Meal:** Will council donate soup, salad, or bread for a Lenten meal in Tempe? Yes, plan for Wednesday March 25th to make soup (or salad or bread) and bring it by 4:30pm.
- Any Flyers for Desert Cross promotions, advertising, or events need to be reviewed and approved by council before they are displayed or distributed.

Prayer Concerns & Praises were shared

Closing Prayer: Pr. Thadd

Adjournment:

- **First:** Tony Tainter
- **Second:** Brent Borchers
- **Unanimously Approved - Motion Carried**