

Danville Congregational Church
Council Meeting
 November 23, 2025

Topic	Speaker	Notes
Welcome	Alene Riley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:45 a.m. call to order
Opening Prayer		
○ Land Acknowledgement	We acknowledge our Sanctuary stands on the unceded lands of the Bay Miwok, Ohlone, and Yokut indigenous peoples, who were stewards of the land for many generations before we arrived. We thank them for their stewardship all these years; and this land was sacred before we ever arrived.	
Consent Agenda - Votes	Eileen Ackley	
○ Approval of October meeting minutes	Motion by Barb Second by Nancy H	DISCUSSION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> no discussion MOTION: Shall the minutes be approved as submitted? Votes: 13 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain Motion is carried
Financial Statements	(Steve Bridgeman)	reports distributed by email
○ Approval of Treasurer's reporting	Motion by Barb Second by Heidi	DISCUSSION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> no discussion MOTION: Shall the Treasurer's reports be approved as submitted? Votes: 12 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain Motion is carried
○ New Accountant Hire	Heidi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steve is going to try to make sure everyone continues to get their monthly reports; detailed transactions will only go out quarterly
○ Volunteer Treasurer		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will need to recruit someone to take over from Steve in June
○ Statement Distribution	Heidi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly Balance sheet and Statement of Change reports will continue to be distributed to council members; detail transaction reports will be distributed quarterly beginning in January. Please contact Steve directly with questions.

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Pastor's Report	Pastor Todd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'm back! And I felt fully back this week. • Delighted with the way everything went during my sabbatical – it all went well • We lost some folks, there were some health problems, but all in all folks were well taken care of in my absence. • It's basically Advent, we'll get through Thanksgiving first • Theme for Nov 30 – What do we Fear? • We'll be focused in January around immigration • Pastorally, folks are reaching out • Lots of folks knocking on our door – they're looking for a church with a mission where they feel welcomed • Pastor Lauren and I are adapting how we're going to approach the second semester of church life
Other Business		
Commission Needs - (ALL)		
Building & Grounds - Funding	Judy Halden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ • B&G has \$2,500 in the current budget for tree maintenance (designated as misc expenses). Seeking guidance from Council to cover the estimated \$7,000 cost of tree pruning (if the project is approved) and identify where additional funds should come from. • Other maintenance issues needing long-term funding: Parking lot repaving, electrical and mechanical maintenance
○ Approval of B&G Funding	Motion by Doug Second by Heidi	<p>DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ General discussion of the various needs for B&G to accomplish needed tasks ○ MOTION: I move that Council approve an exception to the budget for B&G \$2,500 funding for tree Trimming. ○ Votes: 12 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain ○ Motion is carried

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2024-25 Council Goals (review) ○ Strengthen Internal Community		CONTINUE, CELEBRATE, BROADEN Having successfully transitioned to our new Senior Pastor and provided service and learning opportunities on anti-racism, and given extravagant welcome to all, we continue holding Quarterly Congregational Meetings and expand communication in person and online.
2024-25 Council Goals (review) ○ Increase Community Impact		Establishing a visible and active presence through service and outreach, we: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Supported Visions of Hope in Richmond, and lay Pastor Elana Bolds ○ Attended Put the Guns Down ○ Participated in Interfaith Court Vigils to support immigrants and detainees ○ Continued to expand Marketing to make DCC more visible in the local community ○ Supported Valley Pride
2024-25 Council Goals (review) ○ Grow the Congregation		Working to attract new members and families: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New DCC Web page uses more visuals and variety to attract visitors / new members
2025-26 CHURCH GOALS ○ Continue Quarterly Luncheons; keep them interesting ○ Strengthen internal community; celebrate and sustain our growth	Alene Riley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Barb: rather than Council Goals, should use the term "Church Goals" (it's not just about us) ○ What steps are necessary / what challenges do you think you will encounter in meeting these goals? ○ Quarterly meeting: How do we continue the positive momentum behind these meetings? ○ Quarterly luncheons are very well attended, people enjoy the opportunity to connect and share thoughts ○ Extravagant welcome messages appear in weekly bulletins, welcome dinners build relationships ○ TGIF dinners foster relationships ○ Chris S: have a DCC float in the Danville 4th of July parade

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Greeters make an effort to engage new attendees - Diane: acknowledged a member who wasn't here last week – he seemed to appreciate being noticed○ Heidi: We have opportunity to engage with others in the community; we could provide support to our rental groups in addition to what they pay for<ul style="list-style-type: none">● AA/NA – they meet at DCC 6 days a week● Valley Oak – Danville Dementia care○ Nancy H: Refining our community impact: how do we lean into the activities that had the most result?○ Pastor Todd – what are the things that brought visitors in? We should chart that.<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Post election● Death & Dying series○ Nancy H: We should have a regular carpool system for offsite events○ Heidi: Stay mindful - carpools would aid participation in church events○ Pastor Todd: Accessibility - ongoing commitment could include carpools, bring Zoomers to Council meetings○ Joyce: We are just knocking it out of the park in the number and variety of activities we provide - this continues to strengthen our internal community○ Joyce: Would the community notice if we (DCC) weren't here?○ Pastor Todd: Heard a comment "I really thought we'd get more members by having a PreSchool", which has not had that impact.○ Pastor Lauren (email): I'd like to add to the "Growth" section of Goals the goal of re-constituting the Children and Youth Commissions, ideally as a combined "Children, Youth, and Families" commission. And I think that step is a necessary first before we move towards our other goals in that area.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Being transparent, pass along information 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New bulletin board in Koinonia hall is getting more use, and is being updated. Lots of information there, and event announcements ○ Council meeting minutes posted to bulletin board and online
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continue Quarterly Luncheons; keep them interesting 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quarterly Luncheons are very well attended, people enjoy the opportunity to connect and share thoughts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Promote growth through community and Interfaith relationships and shared activities 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pastor Todd: Not seeing a lot of interest in Interfaith activities. Pastor Lauren is working on Interfaith with youth groups ○ Barb: use wording "Interfaith Collaborations" ○ Doug: Contra Costa Interfaith Council ○ Nancy H: the folks who feel called to Interfaith can work through Outreach ○ Joyce: what is our goal in being involved with other faith communities? Are we interested in sharing our progressive Christianity with them, or learning from their worship practices?
Commission Reports		
Journeys in Faith	Carrie Hrousis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We have collected 49 surveys indicating topics of interest for future 2nd hour presentations ○ Ron Elsdon is making a spread sheet of the responses and we will be sharing that with council sometime before/during/after the holiday ○ Currently we will have programs planned for second hour January 18th , March 15th, May 17th and (maybe) June 21 (Father’s Day)
Outreach	Chris Sonneman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Christmas for Others (Chris Sonnemann & Sally Baca) Off to a great start, only 2 recipients left after Sunday's sign up. Can always use grocery gift cards. ○ Christmas Offering will be divided equally between "UCC Christmas Fund" and "Family Justice Center". ○ Discussed Social Justice issues.
Stewardship	Barb DeBarger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No activity this month

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Welcome & Media	Joyce Klassen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We have 11 people on our list of active visitors who we continue to welcome and invite to various events ○ We are making plans for media advertising for Advent. ○ Working with Pastor Todd about a plan for a new member welcome orientation and service in the New Year. ○ Looking to do a new member luncheon in January – and have new member intake Feb 15th
Other Reports		
Anti-Racism Committee	Barb DeBarger	<p>Anti Racism Team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continued work on providing field trip opportunities for DCC members; to the Gathering of the Ohlone People, No Kings Day protests and the Faith & Justice talk with Dominique Gillard ○ Providing resources for legislative action ○ Continuing to support the Muwekma Ohlone Foundation with Indigenous People's Month gift ○ Discussing partnership opportunities with Faith In Action East Bay
Building & Grounds	Brett Clark Judy Halden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ B&G Commission met Nov 16 after church. ○ We need to prune several large trees on site for safety at a cost of \$7,000. ○ Brett will be responding to everyday "on-call" requests from DCC, DaySpring and tenants; however emergency requests requiring immediate attention will need to be handled by others going forward. B&G is discussing hiring of a handy person or company for these types of calls as well as scheduled maintenance needs. B&G will address this at the January 2026 meeting and provide council with a recommendation.

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Community Life	Kyra Kennedy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ TGIF November 14 - hosted by the Feltons had a great evening. About 17 attended and there was lots of great food and fellowship ○ CLC schedule – upcoming events:<ul style="list-style-type: none">● November 22 - Gratitude Walk-Annabelle Lake, San Ramon● December 14 - Christmas Soup Lunch and Cookie Exchange● January 2026<ul style="list-style-type: none">- TGIF (date tbd)- Congregational Meeting and Potluck on January 25
Worship	Janis Jang	<p>December Upcoming Worship events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ December 7 Handbell Sunday○ December 14 Intergenerational Pageant○ December 21 Music Sunday
DaySpring Preschool	Nancy Halseth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Trunk or Treat was a great success! Over 180 kids and parents enjoyed the trunks, the treats and the games in Kairos Hall. ○ The book fair had \$1,500 in sales. Dayspring will see about 50% in profit. ○ Sadly, our favored candidate for the Dayspring administration position has declined the position due to “health reasons”. Maria and Barb are back in the interview process. Prayers are appreciated. ○ During this time between front desk employees the teachers and some parents have been helping out. Maria is especially appreciative of this support. ○ The Parent-Teacher Conferences are completed. Teacher treats/food was provided. ○ Donna Lenhardt will be reading Christmas stories December 10th. Her gift is loved by children and teachers alike.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Next month the children will be performing in their holiday programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● December 17th will be Rooms 1 & 2 at 9 am. ● December 18th will be Room 3 at 9 am; and Room 4 at 10 am. Cookies are being requested. ○ The staff will be having a holiday party/potluck. This group of dedicated educators truly enjoy celebrating together. ○ With the restructuring of TK (Transitional Kindergarten for 4 year olds) in public schools our enrollment is down along with the corresponding income. Dayspring is proactively planning for the addition of an infant room to open in the fall of 2026. Dayspring teachers are already taking classes for college credit to be prepared for the new licensing requirements. This will involve classroom repurposing and remodeling.
Closing Prayer	Pastor Todd	
Meeting Adjournment	Alene	○ Adjourned 1:10 p.m.

Members Attending (NV – non-voting):

Heidi Bridgeman	Pastor Todd Atkins-Whitley	Nancy Halseth
Alene Riley	Barb DeBarger	Chris Sonneman
Dianne Dorn	Carrie Hrousis	Wilson Jackson (NV)
Doug Leich	Judy Halden	Eileen Ackley

Please be sure these dates are on your calendars!!

2025-26 Quarterly Congregational Meeting Dates

~~January 18, 2026~~ – Quarterly Meeting **RESCHEDULED TO 02/15 along with Pancake Breakfast**
 February 15, 2026 - Community Life Pancake Breakfast
 April 19 - Stewardship Kickoff/Luncheon
 June 14, 2026 - Annual Meeting

2025-26 Council Meetings

January 22, 2026 - 6:00 pm Zoom
 February 22, 2026 - 11:15a.m. In Person
 March 19, 2026 - 6:00 pm Zoom
 April 23, 2026 - 6:00 pm Zoom
 May 31, 2026 - 11:15 In Person-Joint with Finance