

**Danville Congregational Church**

**Council Meeting**

February 26, 2026 via Zoom

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Welcome</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 6:00 p.m. call to order</li></ul>
Opening Prayer	Alene Riley	
○ 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 January meeting minutes	Motion by Judy Second by Carrie	DISCUSSION <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ No discussion</li><li>○ MOTION: Shall the minutes be approved as submitted?</li><li>○ Votes: 13 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain</li><li>○ Motion is carried</li></ul>
Financial Statements	Steve Bridgeman	
○ Approval of Treasurer's reporting	Motion by Judy Second by Carrie	DISCUSSION <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ No discussion</li><li>○ MOTION: Shall the Treasurer's Report be approved as submitted?</li><li>○ Votes: 13 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain</li><li>○ Motion is carried</li></ul>

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**Other Business**

Motion by the DCC Anti-Racism Team: While working as a contributor, DCC 's name will be added to the San Ramon Valley Joint Statement on ICE.

**Statement of Solidarity With Minnesota and Elsewhere**

*“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” –Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.*

We stand in solidarity with the people of Minnesota and all over the nation who are rising up for compassion, justice, due process, and human rights. We affirm the courage and resilience of these brave, peaceful protesters and those attempting to protect their neighbors despite the terror that has been unleashed and the public executions carried out in broad daylight including those of Renee Nicole Good, Alex Pretti, Keith Porter, Josué Castro Rivera, and Silverio Villegas González. The administration continues to deny fair and full investigations into these heinous acts of violence.

We mourn all the lives lost to ICE violence—including those in detention prisons—and pray for strength for their families and communities. We unequivocally support immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, many of whom have escaped persecution in their nations and denounce the racial profiling of our neighbors and Indigenous communities. To strike terror in the hearts of people, separate families, children, those who are ill, vulnerable or elderly, to target people’s places of work or schools, restaurants, and court hearings is truly horrifying and is inconsistent with American values. This form of militarization endangers rather than protects people and their safety. It is authoritarian and attacks the Constitutional systems of democracy and due process. It risks peoples’ health, families, livelihoods and dehumanizes them. Above all, these actions do not make our communities safer.

Therefore, we call upon our elected officials to oppose ICE funding, investigate the recent killings, bring an immediate stop to the terror unfolding in all our communities, and uphold the rule of law. Our diversity is our strength. Together, we work to foster a diverse, multi-cultural community that embodies a liberated, inclusive and peaceful future, rooted in mutual respect, dignity and love. We, the undersigned organizations, remain committed to working to ensure that our neighborhoods here in the San Ramon Valley and beyond remain safe and peaceful.

Signatories:

AAUW Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek (CA) Branch  
Contra Costa Family Justice Center  
Indivisible Tri-Valley  
San Ramon Valley Diversity Coalition

AAUW San Ramon (CA) Branch  
Castro Valley Pride  
PFLAG Danville-San Ramon Valley

Council Vote:  
SRV Joint Statement  
on ICE  
(Voting by email)

Motion by Anti-  
Racism Team  
Second by Heidi

- DISCUSSION
- MOTION: DCC 's name will be added to the San Ramon Valley Joint Statement on ICE?
  - Votes: 15 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain
  - Motion is carried

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Pastor's Report	Pastor Todd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ "No Kings March": should DCC co-host, or sponsor? Indivisible Tri-Valley event.</li><li>○ PFLAG declined to participate; feels their status as a 501C might be at risk</li><li>○ "A Call to Christians in a Crisis of Faith and Democracy" video, in partnership with UCC</li><li>○ We can attend and represent DCC; our name would be on the march literature, and we could set up a table with DCC banner</li><li>○ We would have non-violence and de-escalation training</li><li>○ <b>Non-partisan messaging only!</b></li><li>○ No campaign or political activity allowed</li><li>○ Co-host and Co-sponsor are different roles; co-sponsor accepts donations and contributes funds toward the event</li><li>○ A 501(c)(3) church can generally co-sponsor a "no-kings" march (or similar protest/march) provided the event remains nonpartisan and focuses on issues rather than endorsing or opposing specific candidates or political parties.</li><li>○ Pastor Todd is not making a motion, just wanted to get everyone's input</li><li>○ "No Kings" is a denial of authoritarianism; some people equate this with anti-Trump messaging which can be perceived as partisan</li><li>○ Barb / Heidi – can we get input from our Conference / National? Lauren says they are not likely to provide that guidance.</li></ul> <p>Motion by Heidi: That DCC be a non-funding co-host of this event Second by Barb (withdrawn after consideration) Further discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Nancy Halseth Will co-hosting or co-sponsoring make DCC liable if anyone is injured at the event? Financial risk involved</li><li>○ Dianne Dorn Consult the church attorney re: Legal risk; and insurer re: Liability risk Judy does not want any risk of this type</li></ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Joyce Klassen For me it is hard to separate the political implications from the non-partisan event</li> </ul> <p>Motion by Heidi is withdrawn: We will get more information on legal and insurance risk implied by sponsorship, then do a vote by email or phone</p> <p>Pastor Todd requested a straw poll vote: Do we go forward with this participation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In favor: 8 Not in favor: 5 Abstain: 1</li> </ul>

	<p>ADDENDUM 02/27 – 03/01</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Our representative with ChurchWest, Kristen Twichell, confirmed that as a Co-Sponsor or Host to any event, we are indeed liable and subject to being sued by a third party. Basically, the complainant's attorney would file suit against any and all sponsors, in their effort to reach a settlement for their client. There is no liability should we participate as individuals representing Danville Congregational Church...t-shirts and all.</li> <li>○ Please watch for a motion/second proposing that we <u>not</u> co-sponsor this event but also support individual/group participation.</li> </ul>
	<p>Motion by Heidi B Second by Steve B</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MOTION (email): Due to verified insurance/monetary liability, I move that Danville Congregational Church, as an organization not co-sponsor or host the March 28, 2026 "No Kings Rally". However, individuals and groups from DCC are encouraged to actively participate.</li> <li>○ Email Votes: 15 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain</li> <li>○ Motion is carried</li> </ul>

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<b>Topic</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Pastor's Report (cont.)	Vacation Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pastor Todd requests vacation Sunday 06/ 28</li> </ul>
	Motion by Nancy Second by Heidi	<p>DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There will be a guest pastor during his absence. No further discussion</li> <li>○ MOTION: Shall Pastor Todd's vacation request be approved as submitted?</li> <li>○ Votes: 14 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain</li> <li>○ Motion is carried</li> </ul>
	Pastor Todd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lent is proceeding with services geared toward loving our neighbors, including the Lenten devotional e-book <i>Tell Me Something Good</i></li> <li>● OWL classes are going well, good feedback</li> <li>● Easter will be upon us soon!</li> </ul>
Pastor's Report	Pastor Lauren	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ So much going on; several youth group meetings around Northern California over the past few weeks</li> <li>○ Teaching OWL classes at other institutions, such as St. Mary's College in Orinda</li> <li>○ Planning a Youth service project in May</li> </ul>
<b>Other Business</b>		
Extension of Pastor Lauren's designated term call thru August 31, 2026	Heidi Bridgeman Dianne Dorn	<p>DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Term ends May 31st; extension would be under the same terms as the original call</li> <li>○ Accomplishment, community connections, support during Todd's sabbatical, presented ideas of what the position can do over the next few years, what positive impact with youth can do for DCC</li> <li>○ Steve estimates \$15-\$17K for the three month extension; funds are already budgeted</li> <li>○ No further discussion</li> <li>○ MOTION: Shall Pastor Lauren's call be extended to August 31 under the same terms as her original call?</li> <li>○ Votes: 14 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain</li> <li>○ Motion is carried</li> </ul>
	Motion by Chris Second by Carrie	

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Baptism as part of membership	Pastor Todd	<p>DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Per DCC Bylaws, baptism is a requirement of membership</li><li>○ Our extravagant welcome includes all, regardless of their background or status</li><li>○ DCC Communion service welcomes all to the table, with no requirements</li><li>○ Return / persistent visitors – some Christian, some with no faith tradition, some of other faiths. For some of these folks, baptism is a barrier.</li><li>○ Baptism isn't required to participate in Communion; UCC has no national policy to require it</li><li>○ Todd: Change to the Bylaws requires a vote by the congregation</li><li>○ Perhaps we could have a second hour discussion</li></ul>
	Motion by Alene Second by Heidi	<p>Motion for Council to present to the Congregation a change to the Bylaws to remove the requirement of Baptism for membership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Votes: 13 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain</li></ul> <p>Motion is carried</p>
Memorial Garden	Heidi Bridgeman	<p>DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Request received from Bob and Dottie Howell to put a new memorial garden across from the new playground. This would be an area for solitude / quiet time. May have a repository for cremation ashes.</li><li>○ Requesting a sense of the Council regarding such a development going forward</li></ul>
2026-2027 Budget	Steve Bridgeman	<p>DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Proposed 2026-27 budget</li><li>○ DaySpring contribution is reduced in alignment with our revised Debt Service; both realize savings</li><li>○ Includes 3% increase in Staff and Pastor Compensation</li></ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Proposal includes Assistant Pastor 3 months at 1/2 time, 9 months at 3/4 time; the 3/4 time qualifies for health, vision, dental benefits</li><li>○ This budget would need an ask of 8.8% increase in pledges</li></ul> <p><i>DISCUSSION</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Most comments indicate preference that the ask not exceed 5%</li><li>○ Steve advises there are alternate means within the budget process to bring the ask down to the 5% level</li></ul>
Commission Business	Heidi Bridgeman Alene Riley Dianne Dorn	<p><i>DISCUSSION</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Please be sure to notify ANNE-MARIE of upcoming commission meeting so that ALL commission meetings are announced in advance via bulletins, Enews etc. - include date, time, place of meeting!</li><li>○ Safety Training and meetings going forward during March; anyone with experience please get in touch with Mod Team</li></ul>
<b>Commission Reports</b>		
Journeys in Faith	Carrie Hrousis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ February 8 – Kira Lee presentation to learn about Faith in Action East Bay</li><li>○ Will make Sunday second hour times in March available to the Anti-Racism committee</li></ul>
Outreach	Chris Sonneman / Dianne Dorn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Winter Nights will be coming up in April. Richard Stien will take charge of sign-ups and coordinating.</li><li>○ Easter food baskets for Hope Solutions will be coordinated by Kathie Hixon. More information to follow up in the bulletins.</li><li>○ One Great Hour of Sharing will be our next offering.</li></ul>
Stewardship	Barb DeBarger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Revealed theme for 2026-27 Stewardship Campaign: Focusing on Our Future</li></ul>

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Welcome & Media	Joyce Klassen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ We currently have 16 guests who we are actively welcoming, inviting, and tracking within our community.</li><li>○ Six guests attended our new member luncheon in Feb. At this point no one in the group is ready to 'join'; all were very enthusiastic about DCC, our services and the warm welcome and plan to continue attending with us.</li><li>○ We have invited everyone to join an Emmaus team and to sign up for the church directory, it's a work in progress with two parties moving ahead to join an Emmaus team. I'm working with Joy Davis to get them placed.</li><li>○ We are actively posting our services and activities to our social media accounts and planning more advertising for the upcoming Ethnic Storytelling series.</li><li>○ We are in planning process for some marketing 'assets' to be used to get the message out in the broader community.</li></ul>
Worship	Janis Jang	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Commission has not had a meeting.</li></ul>
<b>Other Reports</b>		
Anti-Racism Committee	Barb DeBarger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Supported the Love Over Fear walk with the Indivisible Resisters--6 DCC members attended</li><li>○ Announced All-Church Anti Racism Workshop "Ethnic Storytelling," to be held in March and April during second hours; lunch provided.</li><li>○ Gathering donations for the Visions of Hope Homeless Outreach event on March 14th--carpooling to the event is available from DCC.</li></ul>

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Building & Grounds	Brett Clark Judy Halden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We prepared a draft 2026-2027 budget and sent it to the Treasurer.</li> <li>○ Recent activities:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Repaired both shower valves in Hope Center bathrooms.</li> <li>● Restored power to remaining electrical outlets in Godly Play room.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Planned activities:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● We have evidence of someone filling large containers of water (apparently on a regular basis for some time) from our hose bibbs. We are installing locks to hose bibbs on both buildings.</li> <li>● We will be starting the next phase of repairing the breezeway soon.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Community Life	Kyra Kennedy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ CLC schedule – upcoming events:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Pancake breakfast and Quarterly Congregational Meeting on Sunday Feb 15.</li> <li>● We’re going to skip our meeting this month and plan to gather Sunday March 8</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Thanks to all for the wonderful baby shower for Paula and Michael Chan. It was such a beautiful reminder that we truly are <i>Better Together</i>.</li> </ul>
DaySpring Preschool	Nancy Halseth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No meeting this month</li> </ul>
Closing Prayer	Joyce Klassen	
Meeting Adjourned		Adjourned 8:07 p.m.

Members Attending (NV – non-voting):

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

Additional members voting the Addendum

Randy Jang	Doug Leich
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**Please be sure these dates are on your calendars!!**

March 14 – Vision of Hope Event in Richmond

April 19 - Stewardship Kickoff/Luncheon

June 6 – Valley Pride Day at Danville Community Center

June 14, 2026 - Annual Meeting

2025-26 Council Meetings

March 26, 2026 - 6:00 pm Zoom (revised date)

April 23, 2026 - 6:00 pm Zoom

May 31, 2026 - 11:15 In Person-Joint with Finance