

Danville Congregational Church

Council Meeting

January 22, 2026

Topic	Speaker	Notes
Welcome	Alene Riley	<ul style="list-style-type: none">6:00 p.m. call to order
Opening Prayer		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">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	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Approval of November meeting minutes	Motion by Heidi Second by Chris	DISCUSSION <ul style="list-style-type: none">no discussionMOTION: Shall the minutes be approved as submitted?Votes: 12 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 AbstainMotion is carried
Financial Statements	Steve Bridgeman	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Approval of Treasurer's reporting	Motion by Heidi Second by Chris	DISCUSSION <ul style="list-style-type: none">no discussionMOTION: Shall the Treasurer's reports be approved as submitted?Votes: 12 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 AbstainMotion is carried
GOALS for Council	Alene, Dianne, Heidi	
Celebrate Internal Community:	Continue to offer opportunities for the congregation to gather, serve, learn and play, continuing the positive internal energy and connection. <ol style="list-style-type: none">Continue to provide service and learning opportunities that foster understanding of anti-racism and spread our extravagant welcome to oppressed and marginalized communitiesContinue Quarterly Congregational Meetings to support church communications and understanding of goals and priorities, and promote development of individual relationships. Post events on community calendar in Koinonia as well as onlineEnsure both physical and virtual accessibility to DCC community for all events: worship, commissions, committees, music groups, Bible studies, weekly/monthly social events and other activities that build spiritual growth and positive relationships within DCC	

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Increased Community Impact:

Establish a visible and active presence in the local and wider community, making a difference through service and outreach.

1. Seek opportunities to interact with local and regional organizations that support our progressive Christian values
2. Continue our marketing/evangelism campaign designed to bring awareness of DCC to the San Ramon Valley and beyond
3. In addition to financial support, be physically present at social justice community events, such as Valley Pride, the Social Justice Fair and Put the Guns Down, that demonstrates our commitment to showing God's love to the world.

Growth:

Identify new ways to attract families while continuing to attract the aging community, ensuring a growing and diverse congregation.

1. Strengthen and communicate our welcome practices to ensure that DCC friends and members understand supportive messaging about our church
2. Continue intergenerational social events, such as the Back to School Carnival, Halloween party, Mardi Gras and Easter Egg Hunt to increase DCC exposure to young families, especially from Dayspring Preschool
3. Redefine the Children and Youth Commissions, as combined "Children, Youth, and Families" commission, that leads to broader goals toward supporting these groups - at DCC and in wider community
4. Support Long-Range Task Force (LRTF), including receiving regular communications on progress, plan for financial support if necessary for task force's success

○ Approval of Goals

Motion by Heidi
Second by Chris

DISCUSSION

- no discussion
- MOTION: Shall the Council Goals be approved as submitted?
- Votes: 12 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain
- Motion is carried

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New Accountant		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linda Jones (also DaySpring's accountant) has accepted the position as our Accountant
New Treasurer		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steve will handle Treasurer tasks through the end of May
Pastor's Report	Pastor Lauren	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Had a really great time with Youth group. Nancy fed us on Saturday, thanks to her for helping out with dinner Continuing relationship with youth groups in Walnut Creek Adult OWL session facilitated by Todd & Lauren starting the day after Ash Wednesday, 02/19 from 10:00 a.m. to noon in the office; hope to do 7 out of the 10 Workshops. Will do a Saturday retreat 02/21 to cover 3 of the workshops, to finish by Good Friday. Will have 20 openings, intended for adults 60+. May create a hybrid of younger and older adults for the later OWL sessions Meeting with her PRC this Sunday Developing a schedule for her Sunday preaching
	Heidi Bridgeman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alene and I will be meeting with Pastor Lauren in advance of her contract term ending May 31st to discuss future plans
Pastor's Report	Pastor Todd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> My PRC meets after second hour on Feb 8th Coming off a very successful Advent and Christmas season; very successful discussion around migration – in the context of our ... MLK weekend was another huge success; with the El Portal day of service in the morning/afternoon and the concert with Marvin Matthews on Saturday evening. A lot of interest and compassion listening to stories from Rev Rhina Mercedes Ramos Will transition the last 3 weeks of Epiphany with Black History Month; Rev Carmarion Anderson-Harvey will be preaching during my and Pastor Lauren's absence

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Preschool Financials Update	Heidi Bridgeman (from Nicole Noga)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We'll begin Lent with our Ash Wednesday service February 18th at 7:00 p.m. • Gratitude for John Kendall-Bailey for his efforts to support the theological part of worship with amazing music, and for the amazing Music Sunday with a full orchestra and added choir members • Joyce is continuing to shepherd visitors and new arrivals and let them know they have a place of belonging; we want to journey with them. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DaySpring is in a lull at this time; pre-K did not impact as much as expected ○ Maria is looking at expanding to 2-year-olds, and other opportunities ○ The free TK program is impacting enrollment at DSPS resulting in lower enrollment. A \$5000/month loss is expected through the end of the fiscal year. This shortage will be covered by reserve funds, as needed. DSPS financial statements were made available to the finance committee for review.
Pastoral Vacation Days	Motion by Barb Second by Joyce	<p>DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pastor Todd vacation requests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ January 26, 27, 28, 29, Feb 1 (Sun) ▪ March 16, 17, 18, 19 (tentative days) ▪ May 21, 24 (Sun) ○ MOTION: Shall the vacation days be approved as submitted? ○ Votes: 14 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain ○ Motion is carried
Commission Reports Journeys in Faith	Carrie Hrousis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ January 18 – Graceful Merit second hour with Ron Elsdon ○ February 8 – Kira Lee will be presenting to learn about Faith in Action East Bay ○ Will make Sunday second hour times in March available to the Anti-Racism committee

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Outreach	Chris Sonneman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outreach has not had a meeting.
Stewardship	Barb DeBarger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meeting with Moderators and Todd to finalize the Stewardship theme for 2026
Welcome & Media	Joyce Klassen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New member interest lunch – January 25th ○ Saturday June 6th will be the Danville Valley Pride event at the Community Center in downtown Danville – all day event 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – coordinating with PFLAG ○ Barb: City of Danville has a Valley Pride flag raising on June 1st in coordination with PFLAG ○ Acknowledging the Endowment Committee to help with the signage throughout the campus; appreciate the effort and support ○ DCC Visibility increased about 4000% over the Christmas/holiday advertising
Worship	Janis Jang	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Worship Commission has not had a meeting.
Other Reports		
Anti-Racism Committee	Barb DeBarger	<p>Anti Racism Team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No meeting in December ○ Next meeting January 28th via zoom ○ Todd: Rev Rihanna Shaw-Robinson is hoping to preach and hold second hour discussions on Anti-Racism (plan on March 15th)
Building & Grounds	Brett Clark Judy Halden	<p>Recently done</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1. Repaired the kitchen sink disposal two times in Koinonia. ○ 2. Fixed the shower valve stems in the two bathrooms in Hope Center. <p>Regular Maintenance to be done:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1. Replace burned out ceiling lights in Kairos. ○ 2. Update furnace filters for regular maintenance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Still working on various tree trimming or removal issues.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Brett Clark and Tom Sonnemann spoke with Maria, Director of Dayspring, about potential changes to a classroom and adding a 4 foot fence if they decide to have younger students in the school. No decision finalized yet.
Community Life	Kyra Kennedy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ CLC schedule – upcoming events:<ul style="list-style-type: none">● January 2026<ul style="list-style-type: none">- January 16: TGIF at the McGraths● February 2026<ul style="list-style-type: none">- February 1: Baby shower for Paula and Michael Chan- February 15: Pancake Brunch and Quarterly Congregational Meeting- February 20: TGIF at the Felton's
DaySpring Preschool	Nancy Halseth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ We have approved Stacey Perez, our new administrative employee, to be full time. She is working well, a self-starter and great partner for Maria. As she is a credentialed teacher, she also is able to act as a substitute when needed; an invaluable asset. Though most folks know, it hasn't been officially stated in our minutes that we have hired a new front desk employee.○ The Dayspring Winter Concerts were a success with parents and students alike. Also a success was the Toy and Supply drive.○ The Dayspring board next meets January 21st.○ The school's Lunar New Year Parade has been changed to February 18th as requested by the room parents so that the children can be with their families on February 17th to celebrate the holiday and not miss the school event.
Closing Prayer	Dianne Dorn	
Meeting Adjournment		<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Adjourned 6:58 p.m.

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Members Attending (NV – non-voting):

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

Please be sure these dates are on your calendars!!

2026 Quarterly Congregational Meeting Dates

~~January 18, 2026~~ – Quarterly Meeting **RESCHEDULED TO 02/15 along with Pancake Breakfast**

February 15, 2026 – Congregational Meeting / 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 **RESCHEDULED TO 03/26**

April 23, 2026 - 6:00 pm Zoom

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