

Danville Congregational Church

Council Meeting

March 26, 2026 via Zoom

Topic	Speaker	Notes
Welcome	Alene	<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; this land was sacred before we ever arrived.	
Consent Agenda - Votes	Eileen Ackley	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Approval of February meeting minutes	Motion by Heidi Second by Barb	DISCUSSION <ul style="list-style-type: none">No discussionMOTION: Shall the minutes be approved as submitted?Votes: 13 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 Barb	DISCUSSION <ul style="list-style-type: none">No discussionMOTION: Shall the Treasurer's Report be approved as submitted?Votes: 13 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 AbstainMotion is carried

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Other Business		
Pastor's Report	Pastor Todd	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ So much is going on at DCC, so many good things○ Memorial this week for non-members; all the family commented on how beautiful the church is and how kind and welcoming the support staff was to work with.○ This church is engaged – 40 to 42 adults in the OWL classes, exceptional results for our efforts○ Senior Pastor carries most of the role for Pastoral Care and Worship; long term planning is essential to determine how we do what we do
Pastor's Report	Pastor Lauren	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Lots of candy and Easter eggs in my office, getting ready for Easter egg hunt○ Adult OWL classes are going well; Aimee (UCC OWL leader) will be preaching at DCC in June○ Sabrina Jackson-Kimball is now on our Long Range Planning Committee, along with four other kids from Northern California to attend the Youth Voices Bold Faith in June○ Already starting to think about plans for Fall
Report from LRTF (Long-Range Task Force)	Barb DeBarger	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Change in Leadership – Reuben and Kyra are the main leads; several tiers of involvement○ Have met a couple of times since the Congregational meeting in February○ Big research project, taking different areas of the church to focus on:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- financial situation- leadership structure and capacity- membership and rituals and participation patterns- land and property use and stewardship- community experience and generational needs

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - re: church population, will conduct surveys - things we do that are sacred cows – i.e. things we feel are mandatory; other things we may think about changing - After Congregational meeting – conclusions - Congregation is fully aware membership and leadership in the church is concentrated in seniors, concern for next 10-20 years; we need to engage other generations - fit between current church forms and interests of younger people and families; are our activities enough to engage them? - focusing on gathering data on all these topics, learning more about our community, may develop some experiments / test cases - researching from now thru May; surveys probably during the summer
Restructuring of Children / Youth / Family and Community Engagement Pastor position	Heidi Bridgeman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Last meeting voted to extend Lauren's contract thru summer; ○ What does our leadership look like? ○ Lessons learned over the designated term <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - challenge and limits of part time role - 20 hours/week, 6-7 hours are on Sunday - need for more community engagement and Youth/Child leadership at DCC - correlating with proposed budget -to expand the position to 3/4 time, allows for more family & children ministry and Youth Groups, more office time, - living more into God's call for her and for the church ○ Pastor Lauren comment – combining Children/Youth/Family into one ministry would be better use of resources; otherwise effort is fragmented

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2026-2027 Budget Review	Steve Bridgeman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Goal tonight is to come up with a proposed 2026-27 budget we can recommend to the entire Congregation for the next fiscal year ○ Finance Committee reviewed the proposed budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Joyce – the budget changes increasing Pastor Lauren's role to 3/4 time, while reducing budget for Youth and Children programs seems like a mixed message ○ Expense change due to changing Youth and Family position from 1/2 to 3/4 time. Largely due to the number of hours become eligible for medical benefits ○ Pastor Todd, Ann-Marie, John K-B all receive 3% salary increase ○ Enjoying the benefit of our mortgage interest reduction due to the audit 1st year ○ Projected saving in debt service \$15K-\$17K ○ Proposing to use that \$15K-\$17K and pre-fund some of our long-term maintenance for future years ○ Member commitments are budgeted at 4.97% increase ○ Youth & Children's ministries budget was reduced; Finance Committee did not receive any budget request from these ministries ○ Steve will provide the 1-page format of the budget for presentation to the congregation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Move that Council approve and recommend to present Proposed 2026-27 Budget to the Congregation 	Motion by Steve Second by Joyce	DISCUSSION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reviewing details of proposed budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Building & Grounds - Utilities ○ MOTION: Shall the 2026-27 proposed budget be approved to present to the congregation? ○ Votes: 14 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain ○ Motion is carried

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Safety Training Update	Alene Riley	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Larry Berlin is doing most of the training○ He worked on a Safety manual years ago that had not been implemented at the time○ Our first training session was today; another will be held on April 15th○ We will have practice drills with the congregation after some worship services○ May annually have practice drills to re-train the congregation
Commission Reports		
Journeys in Faith	Carrie Hrousis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Planning a Zoom meeting April 1st for the 5 members who show up the most.○ Hoping to support Reuben's May presentation.○ Will be discussing possible themes for summer sessions.
Outreach	Chris Sonneman	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ White Pony Express 1 was chosen to be the recipient of our Easter Offering.○ Sign-ups for our 38th year of Easter Food Baskets has begun. Kathie Hixon has done another wonderful job of arranging this with Hope Solutions.○ Richard Stein will coordinate dinners for Winter Nights coming up at the end of April.○ It was discussed and decided that we would donate \$300 to the Alameda Food Bank and \$250 to Visions of Hope to allow their programs to continue to grow and succeed.
Stewardship	Barb DeBarger	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Finalized contents of Stewardship Packets including new Stewardship logo
Welcome & Media	Joyce Klassen	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ no new activity since last Council meeting

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Worship	Janis Jang	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Notes from our meeting March 2nd:<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Discussed budget recommendation changes● Put notice to donate for Spring Flowers in bulletin; Carol Bassett volunteered to collect donations ○ March 22 Handbell Sunday○ March 29 Palm Sunday prep<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Randy will order palms● Trish will pick them up○ April 5 Easter - Spring Flowers<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Deacons will bring flowers to eight homebound members○ June 7 Handbell Sunday○ June 14 Music Sunday ○ Checked on One License contract<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Bundle Podcast/Streaming to share services via live stream or upload a prerecorded video● include song lyrics and melody lines in your stream● share handouts online● download songs or texts from our database.● Next September fee probably \$309.○ Next meeting: May 4
Other Reports		
Anti-Racism Committee	Barb DeBarger	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Met with Anti-Racism Team○ Discussions about:<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Visions of Hope activities● Ethnic Storytelling workshop● Protesting opportunities on March 28th for No Kings Day
Building & Grounds	Brett Clark Judy Halden	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ B&G Commission met during second hour March 8. We discussed plans Dayspring shared with us for improving their facilities. The Commission's role will probably only involve consultation as the actual work will be performed by outside professionals.

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Community Life	Kyra Kennedy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Repairing the breezeway structure is proceeding.• Hose bibs with public access have been secured with locks, and there have been no signs of tampering.○ Routine Maintenance in the past month:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• resetting clocks and timers for daylight saving• replacing furnace filters• clearing the Hope Center roof drains• flushing waste lines for the Covenant Building○ March 20 – TGIF Hosted by the Klassens○ April 4 - Easter Egg Hunt and Brunch at the Felton’s○ April 19 – Stewardship Kick-off Luncheon○ May 1 – TGIF Hosted by the McGraths○ June 14 - Annual Meeting & Potluck Luncheon○ July – not scheduled○ August 1 – Dancing Under the Stars / Hope Solutions Party
DaySpring Preschool	Nancy Halseth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Applications for Summer Program and for Fall Enrollment are being taken now.○ Upcoming Events:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• March 20 - Parent Teacher Conferences• April 2 - Egg Hunt at Dayspring for the students• May 4-8 - Teacher Appreciation Week. Lunch is provided for the teachers each day by parents and the board.• May 19 - End of Year Carnival / Celebration. Volunteers are needed to help put things away at the end of the night. Contact Nancy Halseth.• May 13 and 14 - Graduation ceremonies held separately for each room. 12 dozen cookies (no nuts) are needed.• May 29 - Last Day of School.• June 8 - Summer school begins.

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Commission Business	○	From the Co and Vice Moderators: Please be sure that ALL commission meetings are announced in advance via bulletins, Enews etc. - include date, time, place of meeting!
Closing Prayer	Pastor Todd	
Meeting Adjourned		Adjourned 7:42 p.m.

Members Attending (NV – non-voting):

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

**Wilson will represent the Worship Commission*

Please be sure these dates are on your calendars!!

April 19 - Stewardship Kickoff/Luncheon

June 6 – Valley Pride Day at Danville Community Center

June 14, 2026 - Annual Meeting

2025-26 Council Meetings

April 23, 2026 - 6:00 pm Zoom

May 31, 2026 - 11:15 In Person-Joint with Finance (Ordering lunch from Chipotle-details to follow)