

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
APPROVED Board Meeting Minutes
July 21, 2026

- I. Call to Order:** 6:54 pm by Jon Peterson at Peace Lutheran Church.
- II. Members Present:** Ron Boettner, Teri Dressel, Julie Maas-Kusske, Dan Nelson, Jon Peterson, Ted Pew, James Walz, and Pastor Jim VerBout
- Absent:** none
- Others:** none

III. Devotions: Done by Julie Maas-Kusske

IV. Open Forum:

V. Adopt Agenda: Addition point I. Mark's Computer under New Business

Motion to approve Ministry Board Meeting Agenda with addition of Mark's Computer under New Business. TD / JW / Carried

VI. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Ministry Board Meeting Minutes from June 16, 2026.

Two changes:

- Old Business; A. Additional Expenses for Receptions – add “These gifts will be \$500 each.
- New Business; C. Summer Office Hours – change the motion to read “Motion made to change office hours between the Friday before Memorial Day and the Friday before Labor Day, each year, so that the office will be closed after 12 pm on Fridays, effective immediately. JMK / TP / Carried”

Motion to approve June 16, 2026, Ministry Board meeting minutes with changes. JMK / RB / Carried

VII. Reports:

A. Financial Report:

Reviewed Financials: Teri reviewed the financials and Finance Ministry Team minutes.

B. Pastor's Report: Pastor Jim reports that so far things are going well. He enjoyed his time with the youth on the Mission Trip. He noted that there is a baptism this Sunday and Mark will be performing it. We're gearing up for the Rails to Trails parade this weekend and will be handing out Freezes and Fans on a Stick with advertising about the Corn Feed.

C. Mark's Report: No report.

D. Property Report: as presented, but it should be noted that Ron Boettner isn't a licensed electrician.

E. Design Team Report / I-Team Report: There has not been a lot of communication from the I-Team over the past month. We learned that the conditional use permit was approved by the City of Watertown and that one of the I-Team owners will be meeting with Nor-son this week. We have asked the I-Team to commit to keeping the congregation updated with progress reports every 2 weeks at the Sunday morning service.

F. Ministry Team Reports

- Finance
- Prayer & Care
- Worship & Music



1. In addition to the provided report from Worship & Music, we discussed the following:

- It was suggested by Julie that the congregants helping with the worship service meet together at 8:45 to confirm that every responsibility is covered and to be together for quiet reflection in preparation for the service. The group decided this is a good idea. No clear plan was put in place to make it happen.
- We also discussed members of Altar Care helping with communion wine trays during the summer when acolytes aren't assigned. It sounds like Altar Care has discussed this too and some members have already been helping.
- Finally, the MB let Pastor Jim know that we miss the holding of hands during the opening prayers during service and wondered if that could be re-instituted. Pastor Jim is also in favor of this.

Motion to accept reports. JMK /TP / Carried

VIII. Old Business:

- A. May 3 Congregational Vote Discussion: James and Julie are to prepare a plan and present at next meeting.
- B. Bylaws B3.09 Item D Discussion: After discussion, it was decided we don't need to make any changes to this item.
- C. Voting Membership Definition Discussion: After discussion, it was decided we don't need to make any changes to the Voting Membership Definition. We should plan annual reviews of our membership and check in with members who haven't been active for a while.
- D. Welcome Banner and Permanent Nametags: We have asked for more information about what the banner would look like and where they would like to hang it. We have decided against permanent name tags at this time. Our plan is to move forward with using paper tags every week.

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Church/School Bell Donation: We are going to decline the offer as we do not have a clear plan for how to utilize the bell. Ron will let the congregant know.

Motion to pass on the donation of a bell. DN / TP / Carried.

- B. Document Retention and Destruction Policy: Teri to inform Finance Committee of approval.

Motion to accept Document Retention and Destruction Policy as provided. TD / RB / Carried

- C. Children & Youth Ministry Contact Policy: The Christian Education group is currently reviewing this policy and will present it to the MB when ready for approval.
- D. All Church Picture on Rally Day: The last all church picture was 2022. Shelby Dressel has volunteered to help. The MB supports this plan.
- E. Updated Ministry Board Picture with Pastor Jim: Completed prior to tonight's meeting.
- F. Cell Phone: Discussed whether this is something that should be covered for employees. Discussion involved whether the use of an employee's cell phone is required for their job. If so, then we can consider providing a cell phone stipend to qualified employees this fall while doing performance reviews.
- G. Welcome Neighbor Corn Feed Update: All MB members plan to be present except Julie and Ron, both of whom will be traveling. It is reported that last year we had 700 people!

- H. Director of Youth & Family Update: We have six people who have agreed to be part of the interview committee. They have four youth candidates identified and hope to have two join. The interview team is meeting this week and hopes to have the ad posted by the end of the week.
- I. Mark's Computer: Discussion about what to do with Mark's computer. It is 5-6 years old, which is about the length of time technology is useful and relevant. Do we allow Mark to take it if he sees value in it? Do we keep it for file retention? We will confirm that any relevant files are already being stored somewhere other than his laptop. If so, we will allow him to keep it if he wants.

Motion to allow Mark to take his laptop with him if he wishes after confirming we have all necessary files stored elsewhere. JMK / TP / Carried.

X. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the meeting RB / TP / Carried. Adjourned at 9:24 pm

XI. Closing Prayer – Led by Pastor Jim VerBout, Lord's Prayer

XII. Information:

- Next meeting August 18, 2026 | Executive Board Meeting August 13, 2026
- August Meeting Devotions: Teri Dressel
- August Communion Assistant / MB serving: Julie Maas-Kusske and Teri Dressel
- Summer Mid-Week Worship:
 - July 22 – Dan Nelson
 - July 29 – Ted Pew
 - August 5 – Jon Peterson
 - August 12 – Teri Dressel