

Hamline Church United Methodist Church Council Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2026 - 7:00pm

Mariah Tollgaard, Sharon Fields, Priscilla Luitjens, Amy Ireland, Becky Omdahl, Jay Alexander, Angela Wolf Scott, Brittany Pennington, Carol Anderson, Emma Close, Kathy Schill, Miriam Friesen, Pete Theisen

7:00 Welcome & Check In Amy welcomed everyone and asked, “How do you celebrate St. Patrick’s Day?”

7:05 Consent Agenda Minutes (att 02. January 2026 Minutes & Art Show Growth Grant (att 07. Art Show Growth Grant Application) Carol moved to approve. Priscilla seconded. The motion was unanimously passed.

7:10 Discussion Agenda 2026 Endowment Funds Release Recommendation – Brittany Pennington (att 03a. Endowment Recommendations 2026 & 03b. Hamline Forecast 2026). It was mentioned that 3% draw for three years was still the idea. We want to honor the spirit of the fund we wouldn’t touch. Amy asked for a motion to approve the recommendations as set forth in att 03a. Kathy moved to approve. Pete seconded. The motion was unanimously passed.

Spiritual Formation Scholarship & Campership Fund Recommendation – Mariah (att 04. Recommendation on Establishing Campership and Spiritual Formation Fund). Mariah discussed funds that would be used to help kids and youth go to camps. It would be set up with the annual conference. This is to help make camps more accessible. Jay mentioned the thought that older kids/teens going some work to help earn the funds. Right now, there is \$5000. It’s a new experiment that can be updated and/or changed. Amy asked for a motion to approve the recommendations as set forth in att 03a SUMMARIZED IN THE TABLES BELOW. Kathy moved to approve. Becky seconded. The motion was unanimously passed.

Recommendation:

- Combine current holdings and allocate 70% of investments to equities and 30% to fixed income as recommended by Mark Wingerd, Financial Advisor.
- Draw \$120,000 for 2026, 2027, and 2028. The total amount of \$360,000 may be disbursed at any point within the 3 years as project needs require.
- Reevaluate holdings, allocation and disbursement every 3 years to align with church needs and market conditions.

Hamline Church	
2026 Endowment Fund Expenditure Budget	
Capital Improvements (1)	\$90,000
Church Maintenance Operating Budget	\$10,000
Growth Grants (2)	\$15,000
Camperships/Scholarships for Spiritual Formation	\$5,000
TOTAL 2026 Endowment Fund Budget	\$120,000
2025 Carryover Total	\$0
+/-	\$120,000
(1) See 2026 Facility Projects summary	
(2) Growth Grants - May include grants approved Feb 2026.	

Update The Bridge Autism. We presented them with a separation agreement two weeks ago. As of this meeting there has been no response. Looking at next steps.

2026 Capital Project Plan – Trustees (att 05. 2026 projects) Sharon discussed a list of projects and cost estimates. It's possible to pull some money from memorial funds to handle some of these. No action was necessary.

Financials: 2025 Budget vs. actual operating expenses were presented and discussed. Instead of drawing from our reserves (as in the budget), the impact of the Employee Retention Credit (ERC) was recalculated (a credit of \$38,565 to payroll taxes) and 2025 pledge revenue received in 2024 (+24,530) was carried forward, recognized in 2025. Net operating revenue (total revenue less expenses) for the 2025 year are +2,512. Amy asked for a motion to approve recommendation for the year end 2025 financials. Carol moved to approve. Emma seconded. The motion was unanimously passed.

MNIPL Resiliency Hub Grant Application (att 06a. Letter from MNIPL & 06b. MNIPL Grant Application). Mariah explained that the idea is to create a place where Midway neighbors can go during different types of emergencies. We would be a partner in this. More info to come.

Mariah also gave an update on Federal Occupation. Manaraca is still doing training=s at Hamline Church. We are still supporting families in the church and neighbors through the Barnabus fund. In six weeks, we have raised \$60, 000 for the Barnabus Fund. We are often using it to help with rental assistance. It's also been used to help with food, legal fees and utilities. We've also helped some other partners including Hamline University, Hamline Elementary and some mosques, etc.

Amy asked for a motion to adjourn. Carol moved to approve. Jay seconded. The motion was unanimously passed.

Mariah closed the meeting with prayer.

Important Dates:

- *March 1 – Newcomer Meet & Greet*

Next Meeting –Tuesday, March 24, 2026 at 7:00pm