United Church Council
September 28, 2025

Present (Officers & Delegates): Cody Church, Sarah Woltzen, Jerry Bertelson, Morgan Gerken, Nicole Perry, Josh Popkes Sr., Joey Latsha, Jacey Richardson, Dianne Dawson, Bo DeKramer and Amy Tieszen

Absent, if committee not represented (Officers & Delegates): Matt Anderson

Call Meeting to Order (time): 7:00 pm by Cody Church, Council Chairperson

Opening Devotion & Prayer: Cody Church

Discuss/Amend/Vote on Agenda
Motion: Josh Popkes Sr.
Second: Joey Latsha
Approve: yes

Discuss/Vote on Previous Meeting Minutes
Motion: Josh Popkes Sr.
Second: Nicole Perry
Approve: yes

Visitor(s) Sharing:
(visitors are invited to share for up to three-minutes)

Pastor Report *(see below)*

Chairperson Report *(see below)*

Financial Report
(Committee & Treasurer)

Committee Reports
(see reports below- if any action items are on committee reports, they will be moved down to "Action Items" below)

Vote on accepting Pastor, Committees, Financial, & Officer Reports
Motion: Morgan Gerken
Second: Dianne Dawson
Approve: yes

Previous Discussion Items Needing Action:

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Discussion Items

- Congregational Meeting follow-up: 62-3 vote going forward
- Turkey Supper update: 11.00 for adult, 12.00 to go-keeping price the same at this time.
- Trunk or Treat date: Friday, October 31st. Christian Ed is looking to the Fire dept, Officer Berry SRO and maybe a farmer to come as well.

New Action Items:

- Create Ad hoc Building Committee until Phase 1 is complete. Committee includes Josh Popkes Sr., Joey Latsha, Nicole Perry, Jimmy Olsen, Amy Tieszen and one finance person.
- Motion: Josh Popkes Sr.
- Second: Morgan Gerken
- Approve: yes

Church council comments / announcements / upcoming events
(Any council members are invited to share comments or announcements related to United Church of Canistota or our community. No action taken on comments.) Fundraising committee is disbanded. All are still willing to commit to Gala help and set up.

Closing Prayer: Cody Church

Adjournment (time): 7:58 pm
Motion: Dianne Dawson
Second: Josh Popkes Sr.
Approve: yes

Next meeting date:

- ✓ Next meeting is Sunday, October 26th at 7:00 pm.
- ✓ Next meeting's opening devotion and prayer: Elders

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Reports Listed Below

Pastor Report

September 2025 Pastor's Report
Rev. Jerry Bertelson

Our Wednesday evenings have begun with great energy as the bell choir, youth groups, SHINE, and the community meal are all underway. It is encouraging to hear the excitement among students and leaders as they share in music, learning, and fellowship. These gatherings remind us

of the goodness of being together, as Psalm 133:1 says, "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity." Our unity is centered on Jesus. What a blessing!

Another year of ministry has begun, and I look forward to seeing how God will continue to work through all of the wonderful ministries that take place each week at United Church.

Ministry Highlights:

- Conducted two communion services at Good Samaritan Society in Canistota in September
- Made four visits in September.
- Offered pastoral care through phone calls, texts, and spiritual direction.
- Three benevolent fund requests.
- Met with confirmation students and parents on September 14th at 6 pm, and regular confirmation class on September 28th.
- Submitted two pastoral columns to *The Special* newspaper.
- Met with ministry coach, Richard Blackburn, once in September.
- Continued serving on community boards and committees.
- Continued class in EMT-B training to volunteer with the Canistota Fire & Rescue Department.
- The communication strategy changes have hit a couple of roadblocks (related to our nonprofit status) that I am working through and hope to have resolved in a week or two.
- *Focused time and energy at the beginning of September on recovering from surgery, and the latter half of September on re-engaging in ministry.

Travel:

- I will in Atlanta, GA October 8-10 for pastoral gathering.
- I will be gone the weekend of October 18-19. Cody Church is filling in for me that Sunday (Oct. 19th).
- I will attend the Presbytery of South Dakota meeting at Camp Rimrocks on October 23-25.

Upcoming Events:

- Turkey Supper on October 15th
- Trunk or Treat (TBD)
- Jordan Bruxvoort, founder of the Naomi Project, will join us in worship to share about his work on October 26th

Other items:

- A special thank you to David Habeletter and Luke Hutchenson for picking up 18 round tables that The Point Church in Sioux Falls donated to our church. These will be used for next year's Gala. They are in storage at our storage unit.
- Thank you to UWS for hosting a meaningful Golden Age Sunday fellowship time.
- Thank you to the Christian Education committee for organizing and hosting a fun-filled Kickoff Sunday.

With gratitude,
Pastor Jerry

Chairperson Report

Council presented the new design and desire to continuing to fund raise before the congregation during announcement worship time on September 14, 2025.Pastor Jerry and I met to discuss church happenings and prepare for the special congregational meeting on September 28, 2025.We also discussed a couple visionary items for the church.

Trustees

Stewardship & Finance

Christian Education
This month we had Kick off Sunday with games, ice cream, face painting and a potluck. Sunday School, SHINE, Youth Group and Young Adult small group have all started meeting this month. With a full church building on Wednesday nights, we are all excited for a new building to open up some elbow room and room for growth.
Submitted by Joey Latsha

Worship & Membership

Pastoral Relations

World Outreach

United Women's Society (UWS)
Golden Age Sunday was held on Sunday, September 21, 2025. The Turkey Supper will be held Wednesday, October 15, 2025. Ticket prices will remain the same as last year. Adult (ages 11 & up)- $11, Child (ages 4-10)-&5 and ages 3 & under-Free. Carry out meals will be $ 12. The Backpack Program has started taking bags to school every Thursday. Over 20 bags are taken to the school. Fall back fundraiser for the backpack program will be Sunday, November 2, 2025. A Freewill offering will be taken during fellowship time with council approval.
Submitted by Carol Woltzen

Member-At-Large

Elders Team

We assisted where Jerry needed while he was recovering by reaching out to those in need and also serving within the services.
Submitted by Amy Tieszen

Commissioner to the Presbytery of South Dakota

Lay Member to Annual Conference (UMC)

Building Committee