

Fairmount Presbyterian Church
Minutes of the Congregational Meeting
April 26, 2026 following the 11 am service

Addressing some preliminary matters, Pastor Ryan Wallace noted that copies of Fairmount's annual report were being distributed to those present. He also noted that a full color digital copy is available on Fairmount's website and gave instructions for accessing it.

Pastor Ryan then began the Congregational Meeting with prayer and called the Annual Meeting of the congregation of Fairmount Presbyterian Church to order.

After confirming with the Clerk that a quorum was present, Pastor Ryan explained the docket for the meeting:

- Our Treasurer, Amy Carlson, is out of town so the financial report of the Finance Committee will be presented by Finance Committee member Rob Faxon. Pastor Ryan noted that Rob and Pastor Drew Gensler will take high-level questions about finances during the meeting, but anyone having more detailed questions is invited to remain after the meeting because members of the Finance Committee will stay to answer questions.
- After the Finance Committee report, a representative of each of our four Councils will report. The congregation will have an opportunity to ask questions of each.
- Finally, there will be a report and motion from the Nominating Committee to approve its candidate for an open elder position.

Finance Committee

Rob Faxon gave the finance report noting that revenue was up 10% attributable primarily to congregational generosity and endowment performance. Expenses were up 11%, generally

reflecting the inflationary cycle. Overall performance was very close to budget (about 0.5% off) and Rob emphasized that Fairmount's goal is mission and building stewardship, not generating annual surpluses.

During Q&A, Dr. Doris Evans asked about the church credit cards and monitoring of expenses. Rob Faxon explained that expense reports are required and expenses are tracked. Pastor Drew Gensler added that there are five staff credit cards (including his), each with a \$1,500 limit. The cards are tracked monthly and the expenses are allocated to the appropriate budget line.

When asked about the \$16,000 allocation to Shiloh Baptist Church, Pastor Drew explained that the payment was related to Shiloh's renovation project. Session first discussed multiple structures for Fairmount's contribution to that project and ultimately decided on a repayable grant. For budgeting purposes, Fairmount treated the payment as a grant, which affects our year-end position by \$16,000, even though there remains a possibility for repayment

Care Council (Steph Washlock and Carol Adrine, co-moderators)

Steph introduced members of the Board of Deacons (all of whom are members of Care Council). She noted that Care events during 2025 and continuing in 2026 include

- Breaking Bread
- Mardi Gras
- The Honor Brunch
- The Strawberry Festival
- Celebrate Sunday

In addition, Care Council supports the Coffee Hour, communion assistance, flower deliveries, the prayer shawl ministry, and cards/meals for members in need.

Lastly she noted that Care is in a leadership pilot project, shifting

from three Elders on Care to an Elder + a Deacon as co-moderators.. The success of this pilot will ultimately be evaluated by Session.

Faith Formation Council (Nancy Gillombardo)

Nancy extended an invitation to all to join Faith Formation as well as to attend the William Birkett Williams lecture on May 13, featuring Leah Rampy, author of *Discovering the Spiritual Wisdom of Trees*). Karen Dakin offered further details about that lecture.

Nancy elaborate on Faith Formation's busy and productive year with offerings such as interactive edutainment, Lent and Advent devotionals and kits, and worship with UPCam. She also noted that our children and youth programs are flourishing and continue to evolve as more families join and their children age.

Serve Council (Steve Chapman)

Steve identified the 15 organizations funded by Serve in 2025; listed the volunteer engagement through the year; and described anticipated new initiatives for 2026 as new SNP work requirements take effect.

Admin Council (Ian Cameron)

Ian highlighted the ongoing maintenance issues in our 100+ year old building. Major items include solar panels (credited to the Earth Stewards Committee); roof work; sewer work in our front yard; boiler system repairs; and air conditioning in the sanctuary.

Brian Seekeley asked about hvac and air conditioning in Chapel. Ian Cameron explained that meaningful upgrades are likely to be very expensive (hundreds of thousands of dollars) and, given that, there hasn't yet been a decision on whether/how to proceed.

Dr. Doris Evans asked whether multiple proposals would be

sought for the work. The answer is yes. There were multiple proposals for the engineering specs and, once they are complete, Fairmount will solicit multiple proposals for the work.

Ethel Brundage, a member of the Memorial Committee, rose to inform the congregation that the Committee hasn't met since Interim Pastor Jessie McMillan left, leaving questions about where it fits in the Church, how it functions, and who is in charge. Pastor Ryan responded that the Memorial Committee is technically under Admin but acknowledged that some committees are or feel untethered. Session has begun a review of our governance, including Council/Committee fit, reporting lines, and decision-making. All will have an opportunity for input, with Committee and Council members receiving a survey in May.

Ethel asked who writes thank you notes for gifts and who manages distribution of the money. Pastor Drew responded that the memorial gifts are in a designated fund and have supported projects such as the ramp and walk repairs; recently, votes have been taken by email. Thank you notes have been written by staff but Pastor Drew was delighted to learn that the Memorial Committee feels responsibility for this task.

Nominating Committee Report

Pastor Ryan offered context for the vacant spot on Session, explaining that Jim Crosby has resigned as an Elder due to family obligations. Peg Zitzner then made the Nominating Committee Report, recommending Gary Sampson to fill Jim's unexpired term. Nominations from the floor were opened; hearing none, nominations were then closed.

After a motion by Pete McWilliams and a second by Tim Cuff, Gary Sampson was elected unanimously as an Elder, Class of 2027.

Pastor Ryan reminded the congregation that members of the Finance Committee were available to answer any additional questions.

After closing prayer, the motion to adjourn was moved, seconded and passed unanimously.