

Cheshire United Methodist Church  
Church Council  
July 29,2025

Present: Pastor Steve. Mark Gilleylen, Matt Heafy, Barb Heafy, Ned Connelly, Gerry Connelly, Jim Jackson, Dot Mattson, Carolyn Kelly, Dawn Deganis, Creighton Myers, Jen Roeder, Diane Gaborc, Lisa Moran, Janice Evancho, Cindy Decker

**Meeting call to order:** Mark called the meeting to order at 7:02

**Opening devotion:** Pastor Steve put three chairs in front of the group. One represented the people who are outside the congregation and yet to come, another represented the people who are here but whose voices may not have been heard~~not~~ actively listening and third was Jesus. The pastor stressed the necessity of active listening and asking questions. God has promised us something. How will we use it? Each member was asked to relate what God has given them and their prayers, dreams and aspirations:

Do not fear	Ok to take chances
Peace	Keep trying
Always available	Healing for body and soul
Don't worry all is well	Caring
Forgiveness of sins	Promise
Love us as we are	Faithfulness
Peace in our souls	
Stay on the path of righteousness	

These are Gods gifts, and we thank Him and we pray to use them for good.

**Minutes:** The June minutes were adopted unanimously. Moved by Dot And seconded by Gerry

**Pastors report:** The pastor has been meeting small groups of people. All have been welcoming. He is going on Vacation next week and will return on 8/17. On August 10 Rev Cho will preach.

**Staff Parish Relations:** Barb report that the farewell for Ken went well. She thanked the Trustees for their work in getting the parsonage ready. Steve has been meeting in small groups and to date has met with 60 people. The pastors Sabbath will be on Friday. The stationery and phone numbers have been changed. One caution, the hand mic must be used during announcements for live streaming.

**Finance:** Ned reported that we are about 5% over in spending. This is due in part to the pastors move, the Boy Scouts contribution and some bills that were not paid last year like snow removal. We start July with a revised budget, both income and expense, which at present has expenses \$24,000 above the income budget number. There is \$55,000 in the operating account and \$ 32,000 in the general account. Income is 14 %

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higher at this point in the year than the budget, but that is due to some people paying their full year pledge at the beginning of the year. A discussion about passing the plate was had. The Worship committee is being asked to discuss and decide on this matter.

**Finance Chair:** Matt reported that because some members paid their pledge in full we are still over at 30 weeks. Plate income continues to be low.

**Trustees:**

Creighton reported that we have received communication from Diamond the cell tower owners that would allow us to take one payment of \$285,000 for the tower use on our property. At present we get a monthly rent. The one payment would be 19 years of rent. He indicated they are coming in with another offer. We recommend continuing to take the rent for now.

The copy machine contract allows us to print more copies that we are printing. It also includes toner and repairs. At present we will continue with the contract.

Parsonage water test was AOK. We were concerned about sodium levels until it was found the 4 bags instead of 2 bags of softener was put in

Garage door closers: Creighton will run conduits to enclose that electric lines now exposed.

Parsonage driveway: is in needs of repair. 4 trees need to be removed and the stumps ground

Parking around the parsonage: A discussion was held as to how to notify people not to park in the spaces close to the parsonage. It was felt that perhaps signs that say no parking Monday thru Saturday would deter this and leave the spaces open for members on Sunday

**Cooperative Parrish:** Sue Trumbo sent the following report

Highlights from June meeting:

Asbury UMC reiterated their offer to train other churches to lead Disciple Bible, or at the very least they have extended an invitation to any people who would like to join their study.

Committee Chair Meet and Greet meetings: the Trustees plan to meet again in the Fall so CUMC Trustees should be expecting to receive an email about this

Cooperative Parish does not meet in July or August.

Since we have several new pastors and a new District Superintendent in our Cooperative Parish, it was decided that the September 23 meeting will be in person at Grace UMC. The pastor and 2 lay people (lay leaders or substitutes) from each church are expected to attend. Others are welcome to attend.

**Technology:** This area is still being worked on by John and Deb Glen Long. Asking everyone to put their phones on airplane mode helps transmission

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**Education:** The following report was submitted by Brian

Unfortunately, both Lianne and I are out of town today, so education will not be represented in person at the meeting. Some notes:

- We do not anticipate purchasing a new curriculum this year, as last year's curriculum included more than double the number of lessons required for one school year. We will use the unused lessons this year.

- We are beginning to consider this year's teacher rotation. We again anticipate needing a total of eight teachers - two per week - with no Sunday School on "fifth Sundays" (though Pastor Kim may have some input on that?)

**Missions and Social Concerns;** We are presently working with 2 schools in New Haven. The teachers have requested Pencils and writing paper. There is a bin in the narthex for collection. There is a new account for Shelter Now for Jen to use

**Worship:** Dawn proposed that we add 2 more seasonal banners to the front of the church. We would need two stands costing over \$500. The banners are on sale this month at half price. Cindy moved that we allocate \$1000 from the Memorial Fund for this project. The motion was seconded by Ned and carried.

**Fellowship:** Gerry reported that the next event will be Rally Day on Sept 9

**Membership:** Cindy reported no new members or baptisms have been added since the last meeting.

**Member Nurture:** Marge was not at the meeting because of her husband's illness. Dawn noted that we could do a little nurturing of our chair by setting a date to go to her home and do some outside work that she has not been able to get done. The day will be scheduled for September to allow for Bill to have his surgery.  
~~was set for 8/9, 9am till noon.~~

Because of the length of the meeting and the hour Gerry moved we adjourn. The motion was seconded by Diane. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45

The next meeting of the council will be on September 9 at 7 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Decker, Secretary