

Cheshire United Methodist Church
Church Council
Nov. 11, 2025

Present: Mark Gilleylen, Matt Heafy, Barb Heafy, Tony Lamberto, Lisa Moran, Marge Jordan, Jenn Roeder, Diane Gabor, Carolyn Kelly, Dot Mattson, Cindy Decker, Mara Weed, David Wilkenson. Pastor Steve joined us from Alabama via FaceTime.

Call to Order: Mark called the meeting to order at 7 PM

Opening Devotional: Mara gave an opening devotional related to Giving and Thankfulness. She ended with a prayer

Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes from the October was made by Diane and seconded by Mara. The minutes were approved

Pastors Report: Steve reminded us of some upcoming events:

- This Sunday at 3 Pm we will meet at Grace Methodist Church for the annual charge Conference. It is the first Charge conference for the new District Superintendent. He requested that as many as can attend to support her.
- It is also Consecration Sunday. There will be a breakfast for 8 new members at 9:15 to welcome them as they will be received on November 23. 6 are transfers and 2 are coming on profession of faith.
- November 30 is the first Sunday in advent. We will not be doing the hanging of the greens but will have a special service. Steve will work with the Worship Committee to get the details straight. It was suggested that we still include the children putting the animals in the Creche.
- The 4-week Advent Study will begin on Dec1
- Dec 14 there will be a Cantata
- Dec 21 would be a day where Steve would like to have some kind of a Christmas pageant
- Dot asked if the poinsettias could be in church for 2 Sundays before Christmas. Steve agreed

Staff Parish Relations:

- The committee met on 10/28 and finalize staff evaluations and reports. They will have a special meeting with the DS.
- Barb motioned the housing allowance for Steve be set at \$7000 for 2026, seconded by Diane and voted in unanimously

Finance Secretary:

- Matt reported that we are on target for another month. The plate income has been \$6500

Finance Chair:

- Ned reported that we are close to even for the year
- The budget for 2026.
 - Expense forecast: \$315,000
 - Income forecast: \$285,000
 - Profit/Loss forecast: -\$30,000.
 - There was much discussion about some of the items. NYAC medical (Healthflex) insurance expenses have increased about \$5000.

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- David asked about interest on our accounts. We will investigate this as well as the interest rate on the mortgage.
- Ned moved the proposed budget be accepted with the caveats on review of the education budget. Barb seconded the motion, and it was carried

Trustees:

- David reported the expenses that were paid for during the last 2 months. There appeared to be a discrepancy last meeting in the amount of the Memorial Fund budget. It appears that when we took \$40,000 out of the investment account it was placed in the memorial account because we have a checking account connected with it. Although not all items paid were memorial fund items all were legitimate expenses. We will most likely have to reassign some of them to other accounts. The trustee accounts are as follows:
 - Memorial Account-\$8,609
 - Capital Account-\$26,569
 - Memorial Garden- \$6,061
 - Investment_\$445,729
- David pointed out the investment accounted has skyrocketed in the past several months

Cooperative Parish: Sue shared the following:

- The Cooperative Parish Council met on Oct. 28 via Zoom.
- Jen Roeder has joined the council, representing CUMC's Missions Committee. It is great to have her as part of the group.

Items discussed were:

- Upcoming Charge Conference on 11/16, and division of responsibilities among our 7 parishes.
- One representative from each parish to give a brief presentation as to what's going on in their church. Also need volunteers to read scripture.
- Possible mission opportunities which we could engage in as a cooperative parish.
- Difficulties SNAP recipients are facing was discussed.
- Reminder for each parish to check the CT Midstate Cooperative Parish Facebook page and include upcoming events in church newsletters

Missions:

- Jenn reported that we have collected 249 stuffings for Thanksgiving.
- We have 18 new coats for children.
- Missions is recommending that we participate in collecting 500 acts of kindness during Advent. A list will be put in the bulletin. We will find a way to collect these for our church.
- This year each church will continue to participate in the Heifer Project individually. Next year if we use the Cooperative Parrish, we may be able to purchase the whole ark (one of everything).

Technology:

- Matt Shared that Opticom will be here November 25th to install the necessary equipment to live-stream our services.

Worship:

- Lisa is holding a short meeting after church to plan for the Christmas decorations

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Membership secretary:

- Cindy reported no changes since the last meeting

Member Nurture:

- Marge reports that we continue to provide necessary things to members of the church.

Members at Large:

- Dot reported that 63 apple pies have been ordered. We will most likely make a few extra

Old Business:

Safety committee:

- Diane, Mark and Pastor Steve met with a small group to get this thing going. It will be a 1-year task force. They have decided to start slowly with things like:
 - Exit Maps
 - Public service announcements
- Dan will talk to the Cheshire police about patrolling the parking lot
- Dan also suggested that there are some consulting groups that might be helpful to us

Mara moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Barb

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM

The next meeting will be on 12/9 at 7 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Decker, Secretary