

Cheshire United Methodist Church

Church Council

Dec 9, 2025

Present: Mark Gilleyen, Ned Connelly, Matt Heafy, Carolyn Kelly, Lisa Moran, Creighton Myers, Mara Weed, Lianne Adamczyk, Diane Gaborc, Gerry Connelly, Dee Popolizio, Jim Jackson, Dot Mattson, Dawn Deganis, Cindy Decker and Pastor Steve

Call to order: Mark called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Opening Devotional: Carolyn Kelly gave the opening devotional

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and Diane moved, seconded by Gerry that they be accepted. The vote was unanimous

Pastors Report:

- Steve reported the upcoming events of the cantata on 12/14 and the Christmas Pageant on 12/21.
- He is excited about his work with the children and hopes that the congregation will be open to his ideas. He is very grateful for the response of the church and will continue to have gratitude as a focus of his activities.

SPR:

- Mara will be leaving as the church secretary as soon as we can replace her. She had promised 2 years which are up in February. We are asking church members who might be interested to apply before we advertise outside. Several members have responded and will be interviewed.
- We also have a potential new position to discuss. The Director of Children's Ministries (see New Business)

Finance Secretary:

- Matt reported that pledges are about 3% lower the last year in pledges. He is actively calling members who have pledged in the past but have not yet submitted a pledge for this year

Finance Chairperson:

- Ned reported that we are about even on this year. We had a \$26,000 predicted deficit for this year which has been reduced to \$13,000.
- We are looking at a \$30,000 deficit for 2026. See budget attachment

Trustees:

- Creighton reported to trustee funds as:  
Memorial fund: \$8,834  
Capital Fund: \$26,569  
Memorial Garden: \$6,961  
Investments: \$445,729
- Two quotes have been obtained for solar energy one is \$153,645 and the other is \$162,192. The difference is the location of the panels on the roof. In order to get the federal rebate we would have to have this completed by June. The rebates are \$61,000 and \$65,000 respectively. Unless we move quickly, it is unlikely that this could be accomplished in this time frame.

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- Lee Ann Spaulding suggested that we include a blurb in the weekly newsletter that informs the congregation of how much things cost. The electricity for Dec was \$835. All agreed that this was a good idea.

#### Music:

- Mara reported the cantata will be this Sunday and the children will play bells and sing, They will also will perform on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

#### Cooperative Parish:

- No report

#### Technology:

- Matt reported that we are now on the YouTube platform. There were a few bumps the first week, but things seem to be under control.
- We may need to purchase a new camera as our present one is outdated. Probably in the \$1500 to \$2000 range.
- Pastor Steve wanted it noted that Matt, Jim and Deb Glenn-Long did a Herculean task in assisting the setup of this important system

#### Education :

- Lianne reported we are still one teacher short

#### Missions:

- Jenn reported a \$500 donation to the Heifer project. If the cooperative Parrish decides to center their efforts on this, we may be able to buy an ARK. The Ark of animals would support a whole community. A Gift Ark donation includes two water buffaloes, two cows, two sheep and two goats, along with bees, chicks, rabbits and more.
- 500 intentional acts of kindness are being totaled on a chart in the fellowship hall.
- Kindworks will be meeting on a Saturday Dec 13<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday Dec 16<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome to attend.
- In January we will be concentrating on warm coat donations

#### Worship:

- Lisa reported that the committee setup the sanctuary for the holidays.
- The children are putting the animals in the manger each week to prepare for the coming of the Christ child.
- Lisa reports that Doug Van Wie has agreed to be the ladder man for the committee.
- Dawn will be hosting a children's program on 12/13. It will be a movie and crafts

#### Fellowship:

- Gerry reported that Jim and Dee have agreed to be co-chairs of this committee. They have also been putting the tables on the perimeter of the room when not in use. It has no effect on AA and it makes it much easier for Sunday set up

#### Membership:

- Cindy reported that 7 new members and one adult Baptism have been added since our last meeting. It was noted that 2 of the new members were not present at the service and that we should do something to acknowledge them.

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Members at Large:

- Dot reported a \$900 profit on the apple pies. This was made possible because all the ingredients were donated.
- We will have 26 poinsettias on the alter on Sunday

Safety Task Force:

- Diane reported that this is an 8-member task force that will function for one year. They will meet monthly starting in January. At first, we will improve signage and redefine the role of the ushers. Dan Adamczyk will ask the Cheshire PD to do drive throughs. There may be several grants to assist with this effort.

Intellectual Property: Tabled

Director of Children's Ministries:

- Steve shared the this would be a 5-10 hour position that would supervise curriculum, monitor teachers and plan for Vacation Bible School. A church member has offered to donate \$10,000 to support this effort.

There being no other business Mara moved ,seconded by Gerry that the meeting be closed. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Decker, Secretary

CHESHIRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH	Annual Budget	
	JAN-DEC 2026	
	Input "1" for all reporting months	
	Input "2" at current reporting month	
INCOME/EXPENSE:	Year Budget	YTD Budget/Actual

TOTAL EXPENSE	B	\$ 315,377.30	\$ -
	A		\$ -
TOTAL INCOME	B	\$ 285,304.14	\$ -

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	A		\$ -
NET "INCOME"	B	\$ (30,073.16)	\$ -
	A		\$ -