

# CHESHIRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## Church Council Minutes

April 14, 2026

**Attendance in Person:** Pastor Steve Kim, Mark Gilleylen, Matt and Barb Heafy, Joe Bogacki, Joe Pisani, Leann Spalding, Jen Roeder, Diane Gaborc, Mara Weed, Paul Champagne, Cindy Decker, Dot Mattson, Jim Jackson, Dee Popolizio, Dawn Deganis, Carolyn Kelly

**Council Chair Mark Gilleylen** opened the meeting at 7:00 pm

**Devotions:** Steve offered the devotional.

**Minutes:** Diane moved to accept the March meeting minutes. Seconded by Jim. Passed unanimously.

### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Steve

- We had a joyous Easter with 130 in attendance, Palm Sunday with 116 attending, and a Baptism last Sunday.
- Steve reports that he is enjoying being at CUMC.
- Three people will be transferring their membership to CUMC this coming Sunday. We will hold a chicken salad sandwich lunch with a cake to honor the new members.
- We have been chosen to be the second wave of the Thriving Cooperative Parish project. CUMC will complete a survey for this purpose. It is to be completed by April 25. **Note: The Council decided to complete the survey at this Council meeting.**
- May 2, 2026 – New Rochelle – 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Celebration and Information Session for Thriving Cooperative Parish project. Church Council members should plan to attend.
- Steve sees two questions related to this project: How do we all work well together? How does CUMC benefit?

**Trustees:** Paul Champagne

- Funds: UMFF - \$450,919.77    Memorial Fund - \$8,647.04    Memorial Garden - \$6,079.44  
Capital Fund - \$25,762.05.
- We should have received a response from Eversource as to our possible selection for a solar system by April 7, however we did not. Application was submitted last Feb 16. Should know soon. We need to know by July in order to benefit from the 30% discount.
- Someone will be coming out to inspect our roof. We did have some water damage from a storm in 2019.

**SPR:** Barbara Heafy

- Barbara thanked those who worked hard to make Holy Week special.

**Financial Secretary:** Matt Heafy

- Fifteen Sundays into 2026, we are about \$1500 behind, so we are pretty much on track.
- Plate-to-Date is \$1600

**Finance:** Mark Gilleylen

- Mark is forecasting a \$32K shortfall for the year, however, we started the year with \$9K on hand. Mark predicts that we will not have that cushion to start 2027.
- Total cash on hand now is \$42K. Mark suggests a special income project push be made. Ex. Clothesline. We will discuss this next month.

**Music:** Mara Weed

- Easter went well. Mara thanks everyone involved for their help after her surgery.

## PROGRAM REPORTS

**Cooperative Parish:** Sue Trumbo

- The Cooperative Parish met on March 24 via Zoom.
- Items discussed at the meeting were: Introduction to the **Thriving Cooperative Parish Program**, which our cooperative parish has been invited to participate in. Kick-off event is May 2, open to all interested church members. To be held at New Rochelle UMC.
- Our Cooperative Parish decided to schedule two times for intentional prayers for peace. These were publicized to all of the parishes in our co-op, and held on two consecutive Saturdays, March 28 and April 4.
- Cooperative Parish Good Friday service (Plainville UMC) and District Conference (at CUMC) – both events have already occurred at the time of this report.
- Encouraging all churches in the co-op to continue sharing events, studies, etc. on CT Mid-State Facebook page.

**Technology:** Matt Heafy

- We have had a few livestream failures. Lost picture.
- Camera is a problem. Quote for a new camera and soundboard plus installation of \$2900 was accepted. A donor is covering this cost.
- Deb Glenn Long offered Password help and found the problem.

**Education:** Steve, for Rose Kim

- A flyer was recently included in the bulletin introducing the new Sunday school curriculum. The SS is divided into two age groups.

**Missions:** Jen Roeder

- A missions meeting was held last Sunday and the Cooperative Parish Missions met last night to discuss ideas for projects. The Co-op already is conducting a Heifer Project drive which is going well. Local Hunger is also a focus.
- Education is needed regarding what the Co-op does and why we are doing mission projects together.
- A collective event is in beginning stages. It will be a silent and live auction. Focus on fellowship with fund raising secondary. Jen reports there seems to be a shift to more active involvement.

- Steve reported that there have been positive things coming out of the shared pastoral position of Prospect UMC and Asbury UMC. Yalesville and North Haven will soon be sharing a pastor too.

**Worship:** Dawn Deganis and Lisa Moran

- There were less flower orders this Easter.
- Steve submitted the receipt for WWJD bracelets.
- Question as to what to do with old banners which are taking up much needed space. They are 12ft high. Suggestions to donate, cut up and frame for sale, etc. Steve has some upcycle ideas.

**Fellowship:** Jim Jackson and Dee Popolizio

- The Palm Sunday Brunch was very successful with 90+ people being served. Almost everything was donated. Lots of help. One individual was given credit toward her community service hours.
- April 11 – We provided coffee and breakfast items for the CT District Conference for about 106 people.
- June 7<sup>th</sup> will be our church picnic.
- This coming Sunday, we will provide chicken salad sandwiches and cake for the congregation to welcome our new members.

**Membership:** Cindy Decker

- The baptism of Theodore Oseni was held on Sunday. The Hongs were unable to join at a recent service.

**Member-at-Large:** Dot Mattson and Carolyn Kelly

- Carolyn reported that we will be able to submit our contact info for the directory at Riverpointe. Also, a flyer is being created for their bulletin board.
- Dot reported that the Mother's Day flower order forms will be in the bulletin this coming Sunday.

**New Business:** Mark Gilleylen

- Mark is putting together a Policies and Procedures manual for CUMC. He will send sections of it to committees that are policy and procedure driven. Goal is to have this completed by the end of the year.

**Mara moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 pm.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Carolyn Kelly, recording secretary**