

# Cheshire United Methodist Church

## Church Council Meeting

### June 9, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Council chair, Mark Gilleylen. Pastor Steve offered devotions and prayers.

**Attendance :** Mark Gilleylen, Pastor Steve Kim, Matt and Barb Heafy, Joe Bogacki, Mara Weed, Cindy Decker, Dee Papolizio, Jim Jackson, Brian Sullivan, Dawn Deganis, Carolyn Kelly

**Minutes:** Cindy moved that the May minutes be approved. Jim seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Steve

- Steve is very thankful for God providing our needs through the gifts of our congregants, from Matt upgrading our hardware to Rhonda Pattberg working to update our website.
- Recent member, Cole Jackson is a content creator and photographer and has expressed a desire to help in any way he can.
- Steve and his family are adjusting to Cheshire. He is happy to have created friendships here through his children's activities.
- NYAC conference begins Thursday. Steve will attend but will be back for Sunday service.

**Trustees:** Joe Bogacki

- Funds: **UMFF** - \$502,260.31   **Memorial Fund** - \$7,721.38   **Memorial Garden** - \$6,105.09  
**Capital Fund** - \$25,819.03
- **Solar Project:** Insurance has indicated they will not cover a complete roof replacement, only the damaged roof shingles. Our contractor says this is good because CT law states all shingles must be the same on a roof, and our shingles are no longer manufactured. We will work this requirement with our contractor and insurance company to see if we can get a full replacement. More to follow.
- If insurance will not cover the entire roof after claim dispute, then only the section where solar panels are located will be replaced. The cost to replace that area is \$50,000.
- Deposit (7%) for solar needs to be sent by 7/4/26 to ensure we receive all rebates. This deposit will come out of the Capital Fund.
- Discussion followed as to when is best time to withdraw funds from UMFF.
- Steve added that in order to take funds from UMFF, we require a charge conference with 10 day notice.

**SPPR:** Barbara Heafy

- Mara will be retiring as Music Director on Aug. 31 after 9+ years. The council applauded her service to CUMC.
- SPR met recently to discuss the impending search for a new music director. The position was cut from 15 to 12 hours per week which then bumps up the hourly salary with no change to the budget.
- The committee has talked to Rose Kim to see if she is interested in this position.

**Financial Secretary:** Matt Heafy

- **Pledged for Year:** \$189K **Pledged to date:** \$84K **Received to date:** \$94K
- We are ½ week behind, which amounts to \$2400.
- **Plate offering** is currently \$2600 (\$7,500 last year) however, plate income is typically heavier the second half of the year.

**Treasurer:** Mark Gilleylen

- We are paying all bills. Trustee funds ok. However, we will not have much in reserves at the end of the year to carry over.
- A fundraiser is not critical, but would benefit us. Mark suggested the Clothesline fundraiser, which was easy and successful last time we did it.
- Juanita Champagne led the Clothesline last time. Mark will ask Juanita to head it up again and to write up a piece for the Friday mail.
- Discussion centered around incentives to make the project more appealing.

**Motion:** Barbara Heafy moved we conduct the Clothesline fundraiser starting June 21 through September 20. Seconded by Brian Sullivan. Passed unanimously.

- Mark reported that we spent \$25,000 with income at \$24,300 last month. This was a 5 Sunday month which helps.

**Music:** Mara Weed

- Tomorrow is the Choir's last rehearsal. A sign-up sheet for summer music will be available. Choir sings to the end of June.

**Co-operative Parish/Lay Leader** – Sue Trumbo/Dawn Deganis

- The Cooperative Parish met via Zoom on 5/26/26. Highlights of the meeting included:
- Publicizing VBS – It is open to all churches in the Cooperative Parish. VBS will be held at Grace UMC June 28-July 2. Cost is \$30 per child. Rose Kim has been encouraging families of Promise Kids to sign up their children.

- The Missions Committee Chairpersons have been collaborating very successfully on the joint Heifer Project. Kudos were extended to these folks.
- Each parish is continuing to be encouraged to share events and news on the CT Midstate Cooperative Parish Facebook page. The next meeting will be held July 28
- Barb stated that she has accessed good information through the cooperative parish network in our search for a music director.
- Steve informed us of the CUMC site visit by the **Thriving Cooperative Parish** project sometime between August 20-24. We need a team of 1 to 3 persons who are very familiar with what happens in our space. One person must be a Trustee. Each visit is 1 – 2 hours.

**Technology:** Matt Heafy

- A new camera and soundboard were installed recently. Less prone to human error. Sound quality should be better.
- Microsoft will no longer support our Apple laptop. We will need to purchase a new laptop for around \$500. Matt has enough in the budget to cover this.
- Matt stated that we need to elevate our hardware and is looking toward getting a sound rack to fill this need. He is happy to see volunteers willing to fill content needs.

**Safety Task Force:** Joe Bogacki

- The task force has added to the usher duties to include safety issues. Joe Driscoll heads up the usher duties. Dawn noted that Gov. Lamont is providing funds for non-profits for security.
- Joe presented map of our facility. It will be posted in the building and on screens for congregant reference.

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| <p>Motion: Mark moved that Council request of Trustees to use the Memorial fund to purchase three walkie talkies not to exceed \$300.</p> |
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**Education:** Brian Sullivan

- Rose Kim is doing an excellent job with the Sunday school. The curriculum is stable and attendance is strong.
- Rose, Steve, and Brian talked about dividing up duties. Rose will handle the curriculum and Sunday school. The education committee will work on community engagement/Promise Kids connection.

- Barb stated that the summer Sunday school will be different from the structured program during the school year, although the kids will still be together as a group.

**Missions:** Jen Roeder

- We made a little over \$200 on the impromptu soup fundraiser (10% should go out to our cooperative missions fundraiser for Heifer, with the rest to the general budget). There are 2 pints and 3 quarts if anyone is interested.

**Worship:** Dawn Deganis/ Lisa Moran

- The benefit of the newer banners is that they are easily visible to online viewers.
- Dawn would like to purchase more of the small banners while they are on sale (Easter, Christmas, Grape-themed). It would be a total of about \$500-600 and there is enough in the budget to cover that.
- With the new banners, Dawn now needs shelves in the Worship closet to store them.

**Fellowship:** Jim Jackson/Dee Popolizio

- The church picnic went well. Jim thanked all the volunteers. The committee will take a break from large events until the fall.
- The council decided on October 25 from 3:00-5:00 for the Trunk or Treat event. It will be held indoor in case of rain.
- Serve Safe Course will be taken by Jim and Dee by the end of the month.
- Dee proposed a church cruise on the CT river. The owners of the business are Dee's employers. Suggestion was to hold it in the fall on a Saturday from 11 to 2:00 with light food/drink at \$42 a head. Limit is 120 persons with minimum of 75.
- We will open this to the Cooperative Parish. Discussion followed with recommendation of second or third week of October. Steve will contact Sue Trumbo to contact the Cooperative Parish.

**Membership:** Cindy Decker

- Nothing to report

**Old Business:** Mark Gilleylen

- Policy and Procedures: Mark will include the new Usher Duties revision in the Policy and Procedures document.

**New Business: Steve Kim**

- Steve received good feedback from the recent mental health presentation by Phelan Sullivan and Shelby Powers. This was very necessary awareness and he looks forward to more. He would like to see more sharing of the expertise of this congregation.

**There will be no meeting in July. Our next meeting will be August 11, 2026.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Carolyn Kelly, recording secretary**