

CHESHIRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Church Council Minutes

March 10, 2026

Attendance in Person:

Rev. Steve Kim, Jennifer Roeder, Dot Mattson, Barbara Heafy, Joe Pisani, Matti Lilbet, Paul Champagne, Matt Heafy, Mark Gilleylen, Diane Gaborc, Dee Popolizio, Jim Jackson, Carolyn Kelly

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Mark Gilleylen, Council Chair at 7:00 pm.

Opening Devotional: Jim Jackson offered a prayer to open the meeting.

Minutes: Barbara moved that the February minutes be approved. Seconded by Dot. Passed unanimously.

Pastor's Report: Steve Kim

- Rose Kim is our new Director of Christian Education. She will work with the Education Committee, the Co-chairs, and the teachers themselves.
- Rose is considering either an Easter Egg Hunt or small baskets for the children.
- Pastor Steve has enjoyed the February visitations and finds them meaningful. He is extending visitations into March.
- Good Friday service will be at the Plainville United Methodist church.
- Maundy Thursday will be at Cheshire UMC. Hand washing may be offered as well as communion.
- Baptism – Michele Bloom's grandson will be baptized on April 12.
- There will be a new member brunch on April 19.
- This Sunday in Worship, we will have as our guest speaker, Grace Chisholm Kim. She is an acquaintance of Steve from Pennsylvania. Maria Loiewski and Rose Kim will be handling coffee time with some Korean treats.

Trustees: Paul Champagne

- Solar energy: We are waiting for Eversource to approve our claim. This should be done by June. Existing shingles appear to be in good shape.
- Funds: Capital fund - \$25,710.52, Memorial garden - \$6067.70, Memorial fund - \$8629.74. As of February 27, the Foundation fund has a total of \$474,670.93.
- The fire panel in the vestibule had to be replaced. Done on Monday. American Alarm charged us \$870, which Mark is trying to have removed.

SPR: Barb Heafy

- Barbara announced the selection of Rose Kim to be Director of Christian Education effective as of March 1. Rose plans to meet with Sunday School teachers, Co-chairs, and the Education Committee.
- Mark requested of Steve that he ask Rose to fill out the I-9 form

Financial Secretary: Matt Heafy

- Dot questioned the number for pot pies. Her profit from the project is \$1614. There were 144 pies made. Two pies given to the Executive Chef where Dee works for their donation to our pie project.
- Pledge Report
 - Total Pledged for 2026 \$188,988
 - Pledged to date \$36,344
 - Received to date \$50,695
- When we adjust for the people who have already paid their pledge in full for the year, we are behind by \$3,200 which is a little less than one week behind what we should have received so far this year.

Finance Chair: Mark Gilleylen (Acting)

- The audit is complete. Our thanks to Ned Connelly for this. Mark will discuss the results of the audit with Steve.
- Trustee accounts were not audited. We need to find someone else to do this.

Treasurer Report: Mark

- The financial picture is looking good. We are still \$31,000 short for the year; however, we started the year with \$9K which brings that number down a bit.
- Budget Status Year to Date (B=Budget, A=Actual)

		Total Year	YTD
TOTAL EXPENSE-2026	B	\$ 326,172.58	\$ 59,301.52
	A		\$ 57,773.19
TOTAL INCOME-2026	B	\$ 294,644.14	\$ 57,174.39
	A		\$ 67,865.86
NET "INCOME"	B	\$ (31,528.44)	\$ (2,127.13)
	A		\$ 10,092.67

Music: no report

- The choir sent a fruit arrangement to our director, Mara Weed, after her surgery last Friday.

Cooperative Parish: Sue Trumbo

- The Cooperative Parish met on January 27, 2026.
- Prior to the meeting, members were asked to fill out an assessment regarding where the Co-op Parish currently stands in its development.
- Our Cooperative Parish is still in the developing phase, and looking for more laity involvement to push us beyond this phase.
- The NYAC has asked each Cooperative Parish to designate an Immigration Response Coordinator. Candidates were mentioned.
- The combined Ash Wednesday service was held at CUMC. Sue has created a poster illustrating the seven churches and pastors in our parish, to be hung in the fellowship hall so that CUMC members can become more familiar with the Cooperative Parish.
- Jennifer Roeder is serving on the Cooperative Parish Missions committee. The plan is to work as a parish to purchase an ark from Heifer International.

- This effort has been expanded to include the issue of hunger. The hope is this will bring the churches of the Parish together.
- Steve reported on a NYAC grant which will provide a consultant to help improve the effectiveness of our Parish. The grant is free.
- CUMC and Grace are the stronger churches and have a sacred responsibility to be bridge makers.
- There will be an in-person meeting in White Plains on May 2, all day. Council members may attend.
- All churches were represented at the Ash Wednesday service at CUMC.

Technology: Matt Heafy

- We need a new camera and mix board. Matt has spoken to someone.
- Matt is conducting a test every Sunday to ensure success with the video on You Tube. This allows time to correct things if necessary.
- Sharon Coyner is the verification person. We may try to do “picture-in-picture” in the future.
- We may also try congregational views on occasion. Real time feedback is valuable.
- A \$2000 gift has been committed for technology.
- Discussion was had regarding backgrounds on screen display. Not always able to read.

Safety: Diane Gaborc and Paul Champagne

- We cannot do signage on doors due to security film. We will use sandwich boards instead.
- Screens in sanctuary will display a simple outline of the building with exit doors indicated.
- Diane has not yet heard if the Cheshire Police is conducting surveillance visits on Sunday morning during worship.
- The group suggests that 2 more ushers be added and ask them to be responsible for various duties regarding safety.
- Jen asked if a reminder of when the system is alarmed could be included, perhaps in the Friday email on occasion.
- Question raised regarding need for each person to have their own code. Keys need to be controlled as well.

Education: No report

Missions: Jen Roeder

- Forty-one Blessing Bags were created.
- Coop Parish Missions suggests that two churches work together on a project to determine effectiveness.

Worship: No report

Fellowship: Jim Jackson and Dee Popolizio

- We’ve been having 30-40 people during coffee time.
- The committee met on Feb 22. Discussed Palm Sunday Brunch on April 29. Lots of helpers.
- April 19 – Leftovers from pot pies will be used for a lunch of Chicken Soup and Chicken Salad Sandwiches. New members will be special guests.
- June 7 – Church Picnic. Hot dogs, hamburgers, potluck dishes. Rally Day event TBD.
- Jim gives each child a donut with a candle on their birthday.

- Dee asked if we would like to do a hayride again in the fall. Have to find a venue.

Membership: Cindy Decker (not present)

- The Hongs may join by transfer of membership in the future.
- Steve is hoping to see more people join by profession of faith.

Member Nurture: No report

Youth Representative: No report

Member-at-Large

- Forms for Easter flowers will be in the bulletin this Sunday.
- Dot expressed concern regarding children running around the building. Possibility there may be accident. Should respect sanctuary. Discussion followed. Decision made to send this to the Education committee.
- Jen suggested congregation be made aware of changes to deductions on charitable giving, perhaps in Friday email.
- Barbara moved to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Kelly, recording secretary