

**CHESHIRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**Church Council Meeting**  
**May 12, 2026**

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Mark Gilleylen at 7:00 pm. Mark led the group in a devotional and prayer.

**Attendance in person:** Mark Gilleylen, Pastor Steve Kim, Matt and Barb Heafy, Joe Pisani, Paul Champagne, Cindy Decker, Dee Popolizio, Jim Jackson, LEEAN Spalding, Jen Roeder, Lisa Moran, Joe Bogacki, Mara Weed, Carolyn Kelly

**Minutes:** Jen Roeder moved to approve the April minutes. Seconded by Cindy Decker. Passed unanimously.

**Pastor's Report:** Steve Kim

- Steve, Jen Roeder, and Barb Heafy attended the Cooperative Parish Initiative conference on May 2 in New Rochelle. Our Midstate Cooperative Parish has been selected to be a part of this. A consultant will visit CUMC soon to see our facility and see what we do at our church. One goal is to help us integrate with our community.
- Steve is excited about the Sunday school program, under direction of Rose Kim.
- Steve appreciates the care and support of SPR. The Kim kids love Cheshire and are doing well. Steve wants to be a bridge-maker in Cheshire.
- Steve met with Pastor James from the Cheshire Congregational Church. Pastor James is thinking about starting up an ecumenical clergy group and Steve has offered to help.
- Steve thanked Dee for leading the service on Sunday.

**Trustees:** Paul Champagne

- We want to open our building to groups that may need a space.
- The solar project was finished on Sept 2 and we were approved. Total cost will be around \$95K and would be funded from interest money from the Carr Fund, \$106-230K available. This must be approved by a Charge Conference. It will be paid back. The rebate on this project is 30%-40%.
- Entire roof will need to be replaced for around \$140K. Insurance company has contracted an engineering company to assess if the roof was damaged by wind or if it is normal wear and tear. Do not yet know if insurance will cover the cost. Insurance premium will not go up.
- A non-CUMC member has asked about renting space in our building for a high school graduation event. Matt talked to her. We do have a policy document. Trustees will review this before we give consent. More info needed.

**SPR:** Barbara Heafy

- The committee met in April. Steve thanked Barb for emphasis on spiritual health of church.

**Financial Secretary:** Matt Heafy

- We are 19 Sundays into the year. Total pledge: \$188,988 Total to Date pledged: \$69,053 Total received to Date: \$82,770 Normalizing the giving by those who already contributed for the full year, we are \$1900 behind, however we have received stock from an individual which gained us \$3500. Plate income is \$2000+

**Finance/Treasurer:** Mark Gilleylen

- We need to find a finance chair. Mark and Steve will work on this.
- Mark stated that we need to be thinking of a fundraiser for some time in October and cited the Clothesline idea. We need a Fund and Faith-Raising committee to brainstorm ideas.
- Total cash on hand presently - \$40K
- April expenses are \$5K over budget (to date - \$8K over, due in part to snow removal). Income: \$4K (To date - \$17K).

**Music:** Mara Weed

- Music groups are starting to wind down
- Summer music needed, July and August

**Cooperative Parish/Lay Leader:** Sue Trumbo

- No report. Jen reported on recent conference in New Rochelle.
- Jen stated there were 90 participants. Good energy. They spoke with 3 contractors NYAC is offering for this effort.
  - Ministry Incubators – To help churches come up with ideas, launch them, and make sustainable.
  - Hartford Institute of Religious Research – Studies trends. Church attendance is slightly up.
  - Partners for Sacred Spaces – Mapping of church and community leaders. Ask what they need and how we can align with it.

**Missions:** Jen Roeder

- Committee met last night.
- The Co-op Parish Heifer Project has raised \$2916 to date, towards an Ark cost of \$5K.
- There will be a Co-op Parish event on Sept 27 at the Asbury UMC in Bristol. It will be a bake-off/taste test. Free-will donations will be accepted. A cooperative auction is still being considered later.

**Technology:** Matt Heafy

- The camera and soundboard are ready for installation. Installation will be pushed to June.

**Safety:** Paul Champagne

- Sandwich board sign: "Did you lock your car?" to keep safety in mind.
- Ushers should be the ones to notify in case of emergency.
- Plan to put layout of building on in the announcements for exits, emergencies, etc.:
- Cheshire Police are driving through the parking lot once on Sunday morning during worship.

**Education:** No report

- Steve reported that Rose is planning some kind of child education activity during the summer.
- Mark and Steve will urge co-chairs to attend church council meetings.

**Worship:** No report

**Fellowship:** Dee Popolizio and Jim Jackson

- We will continue presenting children with a cupcake on their birthday. Jim requests that all join in singing Happy Birthday.
- June 7 is the church picnic. Sign up sheet available. Cooks are Jim and Sergio Deganis. Set up is Sat pm. Kaitlin will put it in the Friday email.
- Food Handling Course – Dee and Jim plan to take an online course to become Serve Safe Certified. It will be a 1-1/2 hour course. Cost is about \$15. Kitchen is already SSC. Food permit is \$200.
- River House offers dinner cruises on the CT River. Maybe CUMC could plan a dinner cruise sometime in the fall. Dee works for this company.

**Membership:** Cindy Decker No report

**Member Nurture** – No report

**Youth Representative** – No report

**Members-at-Large** – No report

**New Business** – Mark Gilleylen

- Events need to be part of the Policy and Procedures Manual.
- Joe Pisani suggested 3 fundraisers – An Intensive Driving Course, a desert soiree, and a bus tour to a baseball game
- Steve stated there is a large master calendar in the office. Have Kaitlin enter events there so there is no conflict.
- The platform for the Fri Mail expires soon. Kaitlin will check into other platforms to see which best fits our needs.

**Motion:** Paul Champagne moved to approve up to \$200 for a new Fri Mail platform. Seconded by Cindy. Passed unanimously.

- Steve reported that Ruth Casulla will be our new Lay Delegate to NY Annual Conference. Our budget includes \$130 for this purpose. A second person could also attend.
- Steve will soon have a sign-up sheet for those who would like to serve as lectors.

**Old Business** - None

**Our next meeting will be on June 9.**

**Mara moved to adjourn the meeting.**

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Kelly, recording secretary

