

Cheshire United Methodist Church  
Church Council  
September 9, 2025

Present: Dee Popolizio, Jim Jackson, Gerry Connelly, Ned Connelly, Matt Heafy, Renee Poet, Dot Mattson, Deb Glen-Long, Jim Long, Creighton Meyers, Dawn Deganis, Carolyn Kelly, Jenn Reader, Lisa Moran, Cindy Decker, Mark Gilleyen, Pastor Steve Kim

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

Devotion: Dee led us in a devotion

Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting were unanimously accepted after Gerry moved to accept them and Matt seconded the motion

Pastor's Report:

- The chosen program will begin again next Monday, 14 people are signed up to attend
- Pastor Steve showed us a mock up poster for a trunk and treat event to be held at the church on October 26. He had checked out other community events and this is not in conflict. Dawn moved, seconded by Jenn that we should support this event

Staff Parrish Relations: Barb was not present but sent in this report:

- We had a regularly scheduled meeting in July to discuss routine business and will meet again in Oct.
- it is our hope that our church will continue to nurture Steve, Rose and the children in this time of transition.

Finance:

- Ned Connelly reported that over all we are Ok at this point. Electricity is up in cost and may be over budget. We are about 5% in the "green" at this point due to parishioners who paid pledges ahead.

Treasurer Report:

- Mark has set up budgets for all committees that show expenses monthly. He is giving them early so that each group can work on them. It is important to know when expenses occur rather than divide the budget by 12. The trustee budget is by far the most intricate.

Finance Secretary:

- Matt reported that we are still ahead on pledges due to those who gave ahead. He estimated it is about a week ahead. The plate income has actually increased.

Trustees:

- Creighton reported the balances in the trust accounts.
  - Memorial Garden      \$3,651
  - Memorial fund        \$16,428
  - Capital fund          \$28,586
  - Investments          \$410,686.
- The trees in the parsonage driveway were removed so that it can be repaved.
- No real report on solar energy but investigating.
- We have been notified that our insurance is going up

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Music: no report

Co-operative Parish: Sue Trumbo sent in the following report

- The Cooperative Parish Committee did not meet in July or August.
- Because we have several new pastors and a new District Superintendent in our cooperative, we will be meeting in person for the September 23 meeting. This meeting will be held at the Grace UMC. The pastor and 2 lay people (lay leaders or substitutes) are expected to attend. I will attend, but we could use another lay person to attend. Others are also welcome. Let me know if interested.

Lay Leadership: Nothing to report

Technology:

- Deb and Jim have spent countless hours working on the best program for our technology. One important item is for us to form a Technology Committee. Matt moved, seconded by Dawn, we do this. The motion was unanimously approved. Copies of the report are attached to this email, but it was recommended that we use Opticom as our new vendor as they are local and we won't incur large travel charges. We will also need a new laptop as a backup so we can reboot the system. A discussion was held on where the money would come from, and it was decided that the Memorial and Capital funds would be tapped. Jim reported that the sound system is vastly improved but still has a way to go. Matt moved, seconded by Cindy that we use Opticom as our vendor starting on Nov 1. The motion was carried unanimously.
- We will be switching from hosting our live stream on our website to YouTube. This will save us \$1200/year.

Education: Neither Brian nor Leanne were able to attend the meeting but sent in this report.

- Our SS teaching roster is set and the same as last year's.
- Upon review of the lessons we had in hand, it turns out that a good number of them were seasonal in nature. Lianne ordered supplemental lesson plans
- On Rally Day, our students compiled lists of personal and collective goals for the '25-26 year and ruminated on how God and the church could help them achieve those goals.

Missions:

- Jenn reported that the school supplies we collected have gone to 2 schools in New Haven. There are two events at Kindness Works, one on 9/13 11am-1pm and another on 9/23 10am-noon. The missions committee will meet in September
- Finance indicated they still have \$104.67 to spend.

Worship:

- Dawn reported that we have 4 new banners to adorn our sanctuary.
- We are looking for acolytes and thinking maybe each child would do a month. Remember that adults can also be acolytes.
- We also have some old felt banners that we asked Steve to offer to other churches as the district meeting.

Membership Secretary:

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- Cindy reported no new members or baptisms since the last meeting. We will have a baptism this Sunday

Member Nurture. Marge was not present

Members at large: Dot reported about \$100 profit on the mums for Grandparents Day

Old Business:

CUMC Intellectual Property:

- A long discussion on how we can use the data in our online directory was had. A suggestion to have a special page at the end of the weekly bulletin where members can advertise businesses or new ventures was made. It was decided that we need professional advice on this. Matt moved, seconded by Carolyn that we should seek legal advice. The motion was carried unanimously. Steve will also contact other pastors to see what they are doing
- It was also felt some sort of proprietary statement was required on our live stream content, especially since we will be moving to YouTube as the host. Steve will also discuss this with a legal advisor.

Security Committee:

- Diane was not in attendance, but we are aware that we need a plan for safety and security. It was suggested that we contact other churches to see what they have in place. The upcoming Cooperative Parish meeting was suggested as a good place to start.

New business:

Attendance Tracking:

- We are required to do this by the conference. Mark has started a new book and Joe Driscoll will educate the ushers on its use

Special Fund Raising:

- We have to know what our pledges and budget will be to get an idea of what we might need. Matt is going to begin the pledge process on October 12<sup>th</sup>.

Dawn requested to do a children's program of Dec 6 for the Christmas holiday. Gerry moved, seconded by Cindy to approve this request. The motion was carried

Motion to close: Dawn moved to close the meeting at 9:10 PM

The next meeting will be on October 14, 2025, at 7pm

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Decker, Secretary