

**Minutes for August 3, 2021
CCUMC Council Meeting**

UMC Mission : Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. A disciple is one who knows Christ, is growing in Christ, serving Christ and sharing Christ.

CCUMC Mission : A Bible centered community growing our faith and sharing the love of Jesus Christ with our neighbors.

Attending : Keith and Nancy Luscombe, Pastor John Lucy, Martha Burbridge, Marsha Mason, Garnet Olson, Marion Sergel, Hannah Darling, Sandy Dam, and Gaelle McLoud.

Keith Luscombe called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

Opening Devotions by Nancy Luscombe from the Sturbridge Villager Paper, article by Gary W. Moore entitled, " Dying in Public."

Nancy Luscombe made a motion to accept the June 1, 2021 minutes without corrections, the motion was seconded by Garnet Olson and passed unanimously.

Committee Reports were sent out ahead of the meeting.

Reports and Updates given at the meeting :

Pastor's Report : Pastor John reported that Marsha Mason facilitated setting up a new worship service by CCUMC at the nursing home The Meadows once a month. CCUMC also is involved in worship services at the nursing home Overlook.

Pastor John also announced that we have a new Lay Leader, Kevin Hunt. Pastor John and Sandy Dam will help Kevin transition, and he will start the day after the church conference.

Treasurer Business : Martha Burbridge reported that the income for the church has been greater than the expenses this year.

Martha Burbridge also reported that Linda Rogers and herself worked out the discrepancies that had existed between the treasurer's report and the financial secretary's report.

Martha Burbridge stated that Gary Picard let the parsonage renters know that rent won't be changing in the coming year.

Sandy Dam introduced the idea of putting a sum of money aside now to pay off a portion of the principal of the church's mortgage. A discussion followed around this idea, and it was decided that the Finance Committee would put a sum in the budget to put towards the mortgage and would present it at the church conference.

Trustees : Hannah Darling reported that instead of an 85" TV screen for the sanctuary, the Trustees are thinking of getting a high resolution movie screen for mounting in the sanctuary. This would serve instead of the current projector set-up.

Hannah Darling also reported that there was no yard sale, and so the church thrift shop will take care of the items donated.

Hannah Darling reported that Kris Gerrard has been looking into updating the internet for the church with spectrum, and he has received a quote for one year of service and is continuing to follow up.

UMM : The UMM is dormant. However, Hannah Darling brought up the question of doing take-out meals for the men's suppers. She will follow up with John Hunt.

Ministry Team : Marsha Mason reported that both herself and Jean Anderson have been visiting church members who are living in nursing homes. In addition, they have been able to give Holy Communion. Marsha Mason also reported that herself and Jean Anderson will get together and go over a list of people to visit.

Marsha Mason stated that the prayer chain for the church is still very active.

Lay Leader : Sandy Dam reported that she is still partaking in worship on Sundays, as well as meetings, plans with the UMW, and YABS (Young Adult Bible Study). However, she stated that she has stepped back from YABS a little bit.

SPRC : Garnet Olson reported that the SPRC has set up a protocol with the Pastor's wife in case of emergency or illness with the Pastor. In addition, Pastor John's calendar has been made available.

Garnet Olson also reported that Pastor John's transition reports have been completed.

Garnet Olson also reported that the church has signed a 2 month contract with Jim Perry for music.

UMW : Marion Sergel reported that the UMW recently had a fun in-person meeting, including serving a birthday cake for one of its members.

Nancy Luscombe looked up and recited the UMW pledge.

Lay Leadership Team : Pastor John reported that the next meeting is August 26, 2021.

Pastor John also reported that the only remaining opening on the Lay Leadership Team is the finance chair, and Pastor John stated that he is acting in that position currently.

Website Team : Hannah Darling reported that she would like more feedback on the church website.

Hannah Darling reported that there is a button on the church website currently titled, "Stewardship," and it comprises a list of volunteer opportunities that the trustees put together of things that need doing around the church. However, Hannah Darling stated that she feels the button needs a different name in order to attract people's attention. There was a brief discussion during which there were suggestions of what other names could be used.

Hannah Darling also reported that there are 3 new videos from Pastor John on the church website. She also stated that the YABS (Young Adult Bible Study) Newsletter will be posted on the website monthly.

Old Business :

Neighborhood Prayer Groups : Pastor John reported that the committed interest in the neighborhood prayer groups was lower than what he had hoped for. Pastor John stated that he was thinking of preaching on the topic in an upcoming sermon. Pastor John stated that he planned on offering support among those who were interested in the ministry, and that they could take it on as a personal ministry. He stated that he hoped to also get those who are apart from church interested in the ministry, as it is important for all of us to check-in with our neighbors.

Technology Grant : The news on the technology grant from the conference that CCUMC had applied for was that we were not awarded that grant. Pastor John explained that our church was seeking funds for retro-active payments, and that the conference had decided to only grant the money for churches that were seeking new funds.

New Church Directory : Garnet Olson reported that this item is on-hold for the moment, and that there was nothing new to report.

New Business :

Old Home Day : There was a discussion around whether or not to participate in this year's Old Home Day put on by the Town of Charlton. There were discussions around whether the church could find enough volunteers, and which event to participate in. Pastor John advised that the church wait until next year to participate, as there is a lot going on in the church right now. The Council agreed with Pastor John's advice.

Wednesday Get-Togethers : It was reported that the Wednesday Get-Togethers were having a smaller attendance than usual this year. Hannah Darling reported that the next Wednesday may not have a Get-Together as she did not have a host for that week.

Church Copier : Pastor John reported that the church copier in the office had been broken, but that as of this meeting it was repaired and working again. Pastor John informed the Council that a discussion is needed about whether to get a new copier in the future because the company that made the current copier is out of business, and therefore the copier is hard to repair. Pastor John stated that the current copier is leased, not owned by the church. There was a discussion about the benefits and drawbacks of leasing versus owning a copier. Hannah Darling stated that she would inform the Trustees of this situation, and have them follow up. The Council decided to revisit this issue again in, "Old Business," at another meeting in the future.

Worship Bulletin : Pastor John reported that he had been looking for help with the church bulletin, and that volunteers had recently come forward, and so the issue seems to be resolved at present.

Right Start Team : Garnet Olson introduced this topic by giving the Council a brief history of how the Right Start Team was formed in the Spring of 2020, and of how it's grown into the committee that it is today. Garnet Olson stated that there were two purposes of the Right Start Team :

- 1) To look at the Covid-19 pandemic in the community
- 2) To advise CCUMC on guidelines for worship.

Garnet Olson then turned the topic over to Pastor John, who then described how the Right Start Team has been affected in the last year and a half, as well as the current situation with the committee. A discussion followed during which members of the Council asked questions of Pastor John regarding this subject and what other churches in the community were doing.

Pastor John then proposed a new strategy for the Right Start Team : The members of the Right Start Team that are medical advisors will advise the CCUMC Council on their suggestions for practices regarding worship and church activities during the Covid-19 pandemic, and then the Council will make the final decisions about the procedures going forward.

There was a motion made by Garnet Olson to accept this new structure for the Right Start Team, and seconded by Martha Burbridge. The motion passed unanimously. The Council expressed that it hoped this new structure would help to serve the CCUMC community both medically, emotionally, and spiritually.

Pastor John then led the CCUMC Council in a prayer.

Bishop's District Day : Pastor John reported that CCUMC is hosting the Bishop's District Day on October 21, 2021. Pastor John informed Marsha Mason of what will be expected from the UMW collation team as far as the refreshments and services required. Pastor John reported that doors will open at 2:30pm, and coffee will be served around 3pm. The District Superintendency Committee will then meet in the sanctuary, and there will be time for questions and conversation.

Friendship Valley Tour : Pastor John reported on a fun stewardship/fundraising activity that the church is going to participate in on September 11, 2021. The Friendship Valley Tour is a biking/jogging/walking fundraiser for Open Sky Community Services, which is a non-profit agency helping those on the margins of society. The funds raised for the event are going to be split between Open Sky and CCUMC. Pastor John is hoping that the church can use the funds it raises to send the young adults and youth of the church to SoulFest next year, which is a yearly Christian concert series. Pastor John reported that Kevin Hunt has participated in the Friendship Valley Tour many times in the past. In addition, Pastor John reported that Amanda Dam is also helping to plan the church's involvement in this event, as she is the Stewardship Chairperson.

Location of Council Meetings : There was a discussion of where the CCUMC Council meetings should be held going forward. There was a question of which location in the church would be best, and whether the meetings should be held on Zoom again in the winter. It was decided that the next meeting will be held downstairs in the church in the Fellowship room.

Labyrinth : Hannah Darling reported that the Trustees need information about how to build the proposed labyrinth that will be made on church property. Hannah Darling stated that the Trustees need information regarding cost estimates and materials needed for the project. Pastor John suggested that the group interested in having a labyrinth at CCUMC work with the Trustees after the upcoming labyrinth visit that is currently being arranged. Pastor John also reported that it may be possible to receive a grant for funding the creation of the CCUMC labyrinth.

Closing :

Joys and Concerns were shared privately among the Council members.

Nancy Luscombe offered a closing prayer of her own creation.

Respectfully Submitted : Gaelle McLoud

Next Meeting : Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at 6:30pm in person at CCUMC building.