

**Minutes for April 5, 2022
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: To be a Bible-centered community, sharing the Word and our love of Jesus Christ with our neighbors. We envision ourselves as a spiritual hub for the community, growing in faith, sending out disciples, and living our faith in the world.

Attending: Keith and Nancy Luscombe, Pastor John Lucy, Martha Burbridge, Marsha Mason, Kevin Hunt, Garnet Olson, Gary Picard. Don and Marcia Beal attended as guests.

Keith Luscombe called the meeting to order at 6:30.

Opening Devotions: Marsha Mason shared her life with us. She likes all the hymns but she thinks that "His Eye is on the Sparrow" is her favorite because it really speaks to her. She recognizes all the ways God has been and still is in her life. Gary Picard volunteered for next month.

A motion was made by Kevin and seconded by Gary to accept the minutes from the March 8th meeting as printed. It passed unanimously.

Committee Reports were sent out ahead of the meeting.
Reports and Updates given at the meeting:

Pastor's Report: John mentioned there will be an after worship meeting on May1 to review the Vision that the leadership team came up with.

Treasurer: Martha says our checkbook balance is steady.

Trustees: Gary has yet to explore the town wide initiative offering lower electric rates. The tenant agreement has been signed. Spring clean up is on Saturday, the 9th, if no rain. They were planning to have the septic tanks pumped this year but have been told they can wait another year.

UMM: Not currently meeting

Ministry Team: Marsha had nothing special to highlight. Nanc asked for clarification on the days for the services at Overlook. It is the second and fourth Mondays, with communion offered the second. John will also offer communion at The Meadows monthly. The Maundy Thursday service will include a light meal of bread and cheese, but people may bring something LIGHT if they wish. Communion will be served.

Lay Leader: Kevin gave us his understanding of his job as Lay Leader. He will be giving opinion and feedback to the pastor. He is available for members of the congregation to speak with at any time, especially if they have a concern they don't wish to take to the pastor themselves.

Right Start: There was no report from Right Start this month. We expect that they are keeping watch and will let us know of any influx of COVID and the need to consider remasking.

SPRC: No meeting. They meet only quarterly if nothing is happening. They meet more often when they need to do Conference paperwork.

Garnet mentioned here that she has enlisted Kim Thorpe's help on the logo for CCUMC that she volunteered to do at the March 26th visioning retreat. She has the art ability but not the technical knowledge, which Kim will be providing. It will include a dove and a cross with the words "Blessing from Above."

Lay Leadership Committee: Pastor John wanted to let the Trustees know that Judy Fortin mentioned that she has had previous experience as a Trustee Treasurer and would be willing to fill that position again if asked.

Website: Hannah, who was unable to attend the meeting, stated in an email that she is worried about the church getting Zoom “bombed.” Pastor John said he is not worried about that because it’s not as trendy as it was in the beginning of extended use of Zoom. Also Zoom has put in a security measure, the “Waiting Room” so people need to be “let in” to the meeting.

Old Business:

Hannah wanted to be sure we all knew that she is no longer expecting videos from the leadership. Pastor John says it is no longer required but feel free to do it if you would like. Nothing was mentioned about people who have not yet sent her their photos or a blurb about their committee. BUT, YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE!!! Please take time to do it. (Last 2 sentences added by co-chair)

Sending another donation to UMCOR for Ukrainian relief was brought up. It was decided that we would not send anymore this month but keep it under Old Business. It was mentioned that \$400 was donated by the congregation on UMCOR Sunday. That money goes to pay the overhead costs.

New Business:

Valley Friendship Tour (sponsored by Open Sky) is June 11 this year. Kevin again will be riding. Pastor John however will be at Annual Conference. Pastor John asked for ideas about where the funds raised should go. Our church gets 50% of the funds raised returned to us. The funds returned to us in 2021 were earmarked for scholarships for the young adults to attend Soul Fest in 2022. Pastor John said there was only one request for assistance so he didn’t think we would need it for that again. It was suggested by Nanc that we treat it like any church fundraiser and tithe 10% to a mission and add the rest to the church coffers. No final decision was made.

Marcia Beal suggested that the young people should take over the thrift shop and use it as business training. Since most of our Young Adults are employed or attending college and we don’t have very many high school age youth it didn’t seem like that would happen.

Name tags and a pictorial directory were brought up. It remains uncertain who is in charge of actually making the name tags. The last batch that Nanc compiled a list for, got mysteriously made. Nanc suggested a basket for people to put their name tags in which would also serve as a reminder to remove them before going home. Then at some point they would need to be returned to the board. Nanc has agreed to be “in charge” of this. It was suggested that we have multiple baskets, one at each of 4 exits, so that every spot where someone might exit is covered. Martha said there are baskets in the thrift shop that can be used. It was also suggested we have a matching board opposite the one we now have to accommodate all the tags. However, no one volunteered to make one.

The discussion about a pictorial directory was short. It was suggested that we could add it to our website with a password so only our members could access it. We should have a few in print for those who do not use a computer. No decision to make it happen was arrived at.

John spoke about the Church Covenant that he has written and is suggesting that every member of the church might sign. It was written after the visioning conversations we had this winter and the leadership retreat held to make something out of those conversations. The idea is to remind everyone, we (members of CCUMC) are a family and there will be disagreements. When those disagreements arise, we should Holy Conference about the issues. In January we had a Wesleyan Covenant (WC) service at which a WC paper was given to all members in attendance. It did have a place for a signature but it was not meant to be collected and tallied so that Pastor John would know who had and who hadn’t signed it.

On May 1 we will have another after worship fellowship where a presentation will be made about the visioning process and the results. Pastor John is planning to present the covenant at the meeting. Martha wondered if it should be sent out prior to the meeting. Garnet spoke against that as she thinks there are people that still need to have clarification on what "centrist" is when talking about the human sexuality issue. Pastor John says that the covenant really has nothing to do with that issue. This covenant, although it has a place to sign, it is not expected that it will be signed prior to leaving the church that day. More likely it would happen in the privacy of one's home.

He noted that the ministry coordinators have covenanted to not share any disagreements as a church with outsiders, especially through social media.

Worcester Fellowship sent a letter out to churches asking for additional support. Although they are not in desperate need, if they could get \$10,000 more a year they would not feel the need to ever have to worry. Kevin asked the amount in our Worcester Fellowship Fund. The money in this fund has been donated by church members for support of the Worcester Fellowship lunches we make. It seems that few bills for the lunches ever get turned in. The coordinators have been asked to turn in any money given directly to them and to start handing in bills for reimbursement so there is a better accounting of the cost of WF. Martha reported the fund currently has \$763.76. Kevin made a motion and Gary seconded it to send \$250 of that money to WF for this appeal. It passed unanimously. We will watch this account over the year to see if it fluctuates with the new guidelines for donations and reimbursements.

Keith questioned if our mission and vision statements at the top the minutes should be changed to the new one. Pastor John said not at this point. We will revisit after the May 1 conversation.

Pastor John spoke about the March 26th leadership meeting so that those not in attendance at that time could understand the process we went through.

Gary wanted to know if we knew how many people were accessing our online presence on Sundays through Facebook and You Tube. He especially was interested in if we could tell the number of nonchurch people we had reached. What if we stop doing it? He is planning to take the summer off.

It was noted that this past Sunday there were 4 views on You Tube. With Facebook Live you can see how many and who are watching the live broadcast. You Tube does not offer that availability. You Tube does allow the option of being a little more creative and adding things on. Gary explained a bit about the process of getting things on line. Since he has been doing this for 2 years he's gotten pretty good at it and he seems to prefer You Tube. Videos stay on our You Tube channel forever so can be accessed in the future which could make it a good marketing tool.

Gary is still wondering if we don't get more from outside the church should we continue doing it.

Pastor John said he would be ok giving up You Tube. Gary says Facebook has poor sound.

No decision was made.

Nanc closed the meeting with a prayer written by The Rev. Ted Crass, President of the UMFoundation of New England.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Luscombe

The next meeting is May 3, 2022 at 6:30 pm