

**Minutes for May 4, 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, Marion Sergel, Garnet Olson, Marsha Mason, Martha Burbridge, Hannah Darling, Sandy Dam, Gary Picard, and Gaelle McLoud.

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

Opening Devotions by Nancy Luscombe from Our Daily Bread devotional book, reading entitled "Seeing With New Eyes."

Sandy Dam proposed two corrections to the April 6, 2021 Council Minutes :

First, The funeral to be held at the church on May 18, 2021 is for a non-member, and the minutes stated it was for a member.

Second, the Joys and Concerns section of the Council meeting should not be listed, as they are private.

A motion was made by Nancy Luscombe, and seconded by Marsha Mason, to accept the minutes once amended. It unanimously passed.

Committee Reports were sent out ahead of the meeting.

Reports and Updates given at the meeting :

Pastor's Report : Pastor John reported that the format for the Human Sexuality conversation is changing. He reported that Sandy Dam, Garnet Olson, Kris Gerrard, and Jean Anderson are all helping with this change.

Treasurer Business : Martha Burbridge reported that there is no news on the PPP Loan, and that Donna Kondracki is still checking on it regularly.

Martha Burbridge also reported that the bank balance for the church is steady, and it was under-budget in April. She said that the church budget is in good shape for the summer.

Nancy Luscombe requested the amount of the Easter offering and Martha Burbridge said she would send it out.

There was also a request that the financial secretary, Linda Rogers, provide a monthly report.

Sandy Dam asked why there was a charge from the Board of Health on the budget, and Gary Picard was also surprised by the charge. Martha Burbridge said that she would pull the bill for the Board of Health charge and look into it.

SPRC : Garnet Olson shared the news that Rev. Stowe, the Commonwealth West DS, announced that Sandy Dam will be leading the George Whitefield UMC in West Brookfield, MA as certified lay minister, and that our pastor, Rev. John Lucy, will be appointed as their coordinating pastor. Pastor John will continue to be appointed to CCUMC as well.

Sandy Dam reported that she was also at the meeting with the DS when this change was announced, and that her name had been left out of the minutes.

Trustees : Gary Picard reported that the Trustees are getting together a schedule for repairs to the church, such as painting the railings on the parsonage, and fixing the church chimney. Gary Picard asked about the status of the thrift store in the parsonage, and Sandy Dam answered that Nancy Russell has been cleaning it, and hoping to open it in a few months. There was a concern about the parsonage cellar being overly full of items for the church yard sale, and it was agreed that there is a need to create space. Marion Sergel reported to Gary Picard that there are repairs needed in the downstairs lady's room of the church, and Gary Picard said he will follow up.

UMW : Marion Sergel reported that the last meeting was popcorn themed, and that Sandy Dam wore a popcorn headband. Marion Sergel reported that the meetings are interesting and have good attendance.

Lay Leadership : Pastor John announced that Priscilla Walker has been selected to do the church's audit since she is no longer the church's assistant treasurer. A motion was made by Sandy Dam, and seconded by Gary Picard, to officially remove Priscilla Walker as assistant church treasurer and instead appoint Priscilla Walker as the Charlton City United Methodist Church's auditor. The motion passed unanimously. There was a discussion about who will replace Sandy Dam as the church's lay leader. Pastor John reported that there is someone who has been approached to fulfill the role of lay leader, and that person is praying over their decision. Pastor John also shared that the back-up plan would be to have Sandy Dam remain as the church's lay leader until the next church conference.

Ministry Team : Marsha Mason reported that the church will provide a funeral collation for the funeral in the church on May 18, 2021, in agreement with the Right Start Team. Marsha Mason also reported that Martha Blodgett will be doing the prayers, joys, and concerns for the church bulletin. Marsha Mason reported that the people of the church are excited to be back in worship in person together again.

Website Team : Hannah Darling reported that the prayer wall has been taken down on the church's website. Hannah Darling announced that she would like someone else to take over the church's web page, but that she will stay until a new person begins. There was also a discussion about whether to have the Summer Weekly Get Together picnics. The CCUMC Council reached a consensus that they would like to have the summer picnics, and that the Right Start Team should now have input.

Old Business :

Sunday Worship Broadcast : Gary Picard reported that the Sunday broadcast of worship is running well. Gary Picard reported that he has some volunteers that are helping with the recording, and that he is still looking for a few more people to help.

Technology Conference Grant : Pastor John reported that the deadline for the conference grant for technology funds is May 15, 2021, and the grant was not submitted as of this meeting. However, the finance committee had already approved the grant, and the CCUMC Council chairs, Keith and Nancy Luscombe, had written and signed a letter saying they

approved the grant. A motion was made by Sandy Dam, and seconded by Gary Picard, to provisionally approve the grant application. The motion passed unanimously. It was agreed that Pastor John would send the grant application to the CCUMC Council members immediately, and the members would have till Thursday May 6, 2021 to respond with corrections, after which time Pastor John would submit the technology grant proposal to the conference.

Posting Council Minutes : It was confirmed that the March CCUMC Council minutes had been sent by email to the congregation. The April CCUMC Council minutes had not been sent yet.

New Business :

Church Mortgage : Martha Burbridge reported that she was in the process of getting a set fixed mortgage rate for the church. Martha Burbridge reported that the current rate was 3.25% and was a variable interest rate with a cap of 12%. Cornerstone Bank is the church's current bank for the mortgage. Martha Burbridge reported that she has reached out to Country Bank and Webster First Federal Credit Union for quotes. Martha Burbridge reported that she would have more information soon for the CCUMC Council to vote on regarding the church's mortgage.

Church Directory : Garnet Olson reported that Don and Marcia Beal had approached her regarding putting together a new church directory, with Don Beal doing the photography. The last church directory was done in 2014. There was a discussion about this proposal, and Garnet Olson said she would follow up with Don and Marcia Beal about the details.

Council Meetings : There was a discussion about whether to continue with the CCUMC Council meetings on Zoom or to switch to in person, or to try a hybrid approach. There was a motion by Gary Picard, and seconded by Marsha Mason, to hold the next Council meeting in person. The motion passed unanimously.

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, June 1, 2021 at 6:30pm in person at CCUMC building.