

**Minutes for September 7, 2021
CCUMC Church Council**

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, Sandy Dam, Marion Sergel, Gary Picard, Garnet Olson, Marsha Mason, Kevin Hunt, Hannah Darling, Gaelle McLoud.

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

Opening Devotions by Nancy Luscombe from Our Daily Bread, selection entitled "Active Faith."

Sandy Dam made a motion to accept the August 3, 2021 minutes without corrections, the motion was seconded by Nancy Luscombe 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 after speaking with members of the church, as well as with the Lay Leaders, he decided to extend the human sexuality conversation into the new year. This means that the decision regarding the human sexuality conversation will not happen in the fall of 2021 as originally planned. Pastor John reported that he wants to focus more on the ministries of the church, as well as the church vision going forward. Nancy Luscombe stated that she had heard that the young adults were staying away from church due to concerns regarding the human sexuality question, and she stated that this was disturbing to her. Pastor John informed the Council that he had spoken with the young adults at YABS (Young Adult Bible Study) about human sexuality, and that he planned to speak with them a second time regarding their concerns.

Lay Leader : Sandy Dam reported that she is still involved in attending meetings, as well as being involved with finance, the thrift store, calling on and checking on people, and praying for members of the church. Kevin Hunt will be the new Lay Leader.

Right Start Team : Keith Luscombe started the discussion by reading an email sent to the Council from Marilyn Gerrard who is a member of the Right Start Team. A discussion then followed regarding wearing masks during the Sunday church service, and the safety precautions put in place regarding covid-19 for church events. It was decided to maintain the current safety procedures for church events, including wearing masks while inside the church building. There was a second discussion regarding opening the church building for outside events, and which safety procedures should be enforced for groups renting the church hall. The discussion expanded to talk about serving food safely, as well as how to enforce wearing masks inside. Hannah Darling read a list of required and recommended policies for groups renting the church building:

Required :

- Name and phone number of all attendees
- Guests can't serve themselves
- Food servers must be masked and gloved-can serve cafeteria style
- Windows open 4" or more

Recommended :

- Masks
- Tables distanced and 4 persons per 6' table
- We will have hand sanitizer available

There was a discussion around the requirement of wearing masks for church events, versus the recommendation of wearing masks for non-church events. Some Council members felt that the guidelines should be consistent across the board. Other Council members felt that it's impossible to enforce wearing masks for groups that rent the church. The Council also expressed that they wanted the church to be a hospitable environment for groups coming in. Gary Picard made a motion to accept the current requirements and recommendations for groups renting the church as listed above, and the motion was seconded by Martha Burbridge. Sandy Dam was opposed, Pastor John Lucy abstained, and the remainder of the Council voted yes, and the motion passed.

Finance : Martha Burbridge reported that 100% of the church mission shares had been paid for this year, and also that the mission shares will be going up by 20% in 2022. Martha Burbridge also reported that 5000.00 dollars was paid to the principal on the church mortgage after the Finance committee had voted to do so. It was also reported that the monthly church mortgage amount will be going up in September, due to an increase in the interest from 3.25% to 3.8%. In addition, the property insurance will be going up, and Martha Burbridge is planning to follow up on that.

UMW : It was shared that Nancy Luscombe is the new president of the UMW.

Lay Leadership : Pastor John reported that all the nominations have been made for the upcoming year, and there's a feeling of excitement. There was a question of who would run the winter fair, and whether it would be virtual or in person.

Ministry Team : There is a need for a back-up for Maria Calkins who operates the powerpoint on Sunday mornings. Danielle Lucy has volunteered to be a back-up.

Marsha Mason reported that she is working with the UMW collation team to provide refreshments for Bishop's Day on October 21,2021. There was a concern raised that it is unclear how many people will be coming in person for Bishop's Day, as there is a Zoom option being offered as well. In addition, there is a need for child care volunteers for Bishop's Day, and currently Pastor John and Nancy Luscombe are possible volunteers.

Marsha Mason reported that this year the church will be partaking in apple pie making on October 9th, 10th, and 11th.

Marsha Mason reported that the YABS (Young Adult Bible Study) are currently very active in mission work.

Old Business:

Neighborhood Prayer Group : Pastor John reported that he will be meeting with the people interested tomorrow, September 8, 2021.

Internet for the Church : Hannah Darling reported that the problem with the internet connection has been solved with a new modem from Spectrum to supply a signal to the WIFI system.

Church Directory : Garnet Olson reported that a new photographic directory is on permanent hold. Pastor John reported that there is a new print directory being worked on by Aleta Dam.

Friendship Valley Tour : Kevin Hunt provided information about the bike/run/walk coming up on September 11, 2021. The fundraising will benefit Open Sky Community Services as well as CCUMC. The church's team, CCUMC Athletes, has already exceeded their fundraising goal. The event takes place in Whitinsville, MA, and there's a festival with live music and lunch after the race.

Copier Issue : The church copier was broken, but is now working. The trustees will put it on their agenda to look into a new copier in the future. Kevin Hunt and Marion Sergel both volunteered to help print items for the church if needed.

New Business :

Finance Workshop : Pastor John reported that he would like to have David Abbott, the Director of Stewardship for the United Methodist Foundation of New England, come and do a stewardship workshop at CCUMC. Pastor John reported that there were several options for the workshop topic, but that he preferred the Finance and History workshop, as it discusses our personal relationship with money, how we give to the church, and how we do stewardship. Pastor John expressed that this particular workshop would go well with the visioning study that he has planned for CCUMC in January 2022. The Council was in favor of doing the workshop.

New Member Classes : Pastor John reported that starting September 12, 2021 he will lead a series of three new membership classes. There is a possibility that up to seven people will become new members. Pastor John reported that not everyone would be able to make all of the meetings, and so there would be follow-ups. In addition, Pastor John plans to have a selection of current members share their faith stories at the classes. Once the classes have completed, Pastor John will assign each new member a prayer partner to guide them and to help them engage with the church. Pastor John also reported that confirmation classes will follow, which is very exciting.

Name Tags : Marion Sergel expressed that it would be nice to have name tags again for church members, as well as new people. Hannah Darling said that she would help with the project.

Closing :

Joys and Concerns were shared privately among the Council members.

Nancy Luscombe offered a closing prayer from the book Psalms and Ordinary Voices, with an interpretation of Psalm 23 By: Sasha Klare-Ayvazian.

Respectfully Submitted : Gaelle McLoud

Next Meeting : Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at 6:30pm in person at CCUMC building.