

**Minutes for November 2, 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, Gary Picard, Kevin Hunt, Hannah Darling

Keith Luscombe called the meeting to order at 6:31

Opening Devotions by Nancy Luscombe "Entertaining the Stranger" from "Moments with Angels" by Robert Strand.

The minutes of the October meeting were reviewed. Kevin Hunt made a motion to accept as written. Marsha Mason seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

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

Pastor's Report: John has suggested a change in our mission statement. We will be looking at it with a larger contingent of the congregation in 2022.

Lay Leader: There is an ongoing conversation about the young adults' lack of participation during worship. They are keeping going with their own group and Bible study but how can we get them to be present in church?

Right Start: reports from Marilyn Gerrard, Robin McFee and Dawn Toon were reviewed. We will keep the current church COVID Plan in place. Gary Picard asked why only three people were making the decision? It was explained that a change had been made. We as a council now make the decision after considering the reports from the medical people in our congregation. Gary thinks the reports they are working from are outdated for our area. We will ask the Right Start Advisors to be sure they have the correct stats for our area.

Treasurer: Martha Burbridge stated that our income is down but so are our expenses. Right now things seem to be fine.

SPRC: Martha Burbridge for Garnet Olsen. The committee adjusted their budget request for the Pastor's salary to make it in-line with the Conference guidelines. They have added \$200 to the Pastor's salary. The reimbursable amount has been changed to one figure \$32,000 for all the categories. There was a question about the \$5,000 housing exclusion that now shows. The Board was told it does not affect the budget, it is for the Pastor's tax purpose only.

Kevin Hunt made a motion to raise the Pastor's salary by \$200 to \$45,100. Gary Picard seconded it and it passed unanimously. It will be presented at the Charge Conference.

A question was raised regarding the Sexton's contract. Kevin thought the cleaning fee was included in the rental fee for groups. He was told it is no longer a separate item but included in the fee. According to the contract if the sexton does not do the follow up cleaning (The rental group is expected to do their own.) then the sexton will not be paid for it. Gary Picard will talk to Garnet regarding the sexton's contract.

Martha also said that Pastor John brought up at the SPRC meeting a change in church committee structure to a single board model. Pastor got the impression that people were not in favor of it. The Board had mixed emotions.

Trustees: Gary Picard reports there has been no new evidence of trespassers. Jim Hunt has done a good job doing a lighting project. The walking prayer path is almost completed. They found out that the parsonage roof was done in 2011 so we shouldn't need to do a new one. He will look into cleaning the moss off and contacting the roofing company to see about any warranty.

They have reinvested their memorial funds to a higher interest paying account.

Website: Hannah has changed the home page and leadership page. She would like pictures of all of the group leaders. Kevin says it shows nicely in the mobile version. Gary was reminded of volunteering to do a "spot" on what he likes about our church.

Ministry Team: Marsha Mason reports Pastor is looking for ways to shorten the service. One suggestion was to prerecord the Children's Time and attach it to the service recording so that people watching at home with children can access it. It was also suggested it could be put on a thumb drive so it could be shown to the children who were attending Sunday School. Another suggestion was to shorten the prayer requests by printing birthdays and anniversaries in the bulletin monthly.

The Southbridge UMC is looking for help with the meals they serve on Mondays and Fridays,

The hospitality on the Bishop's Night was greatly appreciated by all.

Old Business:

The internet is better since we upgraded so we will remove it from our list.

The Stewardship Workshop "Financial Ministry Time Line" to be presented by David Abbott from the New England Foundation on November 7, after church. We will look at who we are and what we want to be." Bring a bag lunch. Pastor John asked people to write down what they know so as to speed up the process on that day.

Martha was unable to get a credit card to pay the cell phone portion of our internet plan. She did find out that a debit card is attached to the account so Chris Gerrard is now using that to pay the for the cell phone. It was also recently discovered when trying to set up the phone that it did not work. It was suggested we try get the money back that we paid for those months when it did not work.

A love offering was collected after Matthew's presentation on the homeless. John announced at the beginning of the presentation that the amount collected would be divided among Matthew, Worcester Fellowship, and Dismas House. \$350 was collected of which Matthew was given \$250 and the rest divided between the other two.

Fund Raising Tithe update

Mission and Outreach coordinators suggested

- School for direct help to families for Thrift Shop profits. Martha Burbridge suggested we give it to the teachers' fund so they can hand out as needed. She would check with Marilyn Gerrard and KarenLee Hickey.
- The tithe from the fair will go to Charlton's REAF (heat assistance for residents).
- Fifty percent of the apple pie funds will be sent to UMCOR. That had already been decided earlier. Since some people told their buyers that is how the money was being spent it was decided to keep it that way and address it for next year.

A question brought up here was since members of the church come from several towns could there be some assistance to those towns in the future? It is something to be considered and talked about at a later date.

New Business:

Pastor John wanted to check that it was still ok that the money our church received back from the Open Sky walk/ride be used as scholarships to aid any of the young adults to go to Soul Fest in 2022. Soul Fest is a multi-day Christian concert in Gunstock, NH so there will be overnight expenses as well as the ticket price. The Council agreed by consensus.

Pastor John has been asked to have more office hours at the church. He is looking for one or more volunteer administrative assistants to be present also. He plans to be there Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday and is looking for someone each of those days for about three hours. The duties would be filling out forms, scheduling, making and answering phone calls, and any other help the pastor needs. Qualifications are being able to type/use computer. Hannah Darling volunteered for Tuesdays. Pastor will put in the weekly announcements he sends out Sunday afternoon.

Nancy asked about adding announcements to the bulletins. Pastor thought it would be a good idea.

The trustees are trying to find out who has keys to the church and parsonage. It needs to be more controlled. They would like to get keys back from those who may have keys but no longer attend.

Hannah Darling found some old books of photographs and wondered if they should be put in the library. The consensus was affirmative. John suggested she speak with Marcia Beal who tends to the library.

After a closing prayer by Nancy Luscombe, the meeting was adjourned by Keith Luscombe.

Respectfully submitted: Nancy Luscombe, substitute secretary

Next meeting: December 7, 2021, 6:30 p.m. at the church.