

**Minutes for December 7, 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 : 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, Gary Picard, Kevin Hunt, Garnet Olson

Keith Luscombe called the meeting to order at 6:31

Opening Devotions by Nancy Luscombe - read "Finding Joy in The Meaningless" from Our Daily Bread" devotional.

The minutes of the November meeting were reviewed. There was one correction - under SPRC the amount for the pastor's reimbursable should be \$3,200 not \$32,000. Kevin Hunt made a motion to accept as corrected. Garnet Olson 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: Pastor John wanted to reiterate how grateful he is for all of us and the ministry team members and others for getting us through his first year and a half with Charlton City UMC.

Lay Leader: Kevin Hunt is our new Lay Leader. He mentioned the visioning time to be held in January. There may be a need for facilitators if there are break-out groups. Pastor said Kevin is keeping him reined in so this does not become too long a process.

Right Start: reports from Marilyn Gerrard, Robin McFee and Dawn Toon were reviewed. We will keep the current church COVID Plan in place, especially since there is a new variant that no one seems to know just how powerful it is yet. Gary Picard expressed his disagreement with this decision. He wants to have facts and statistics. He says there are 108,399 cases in Worcester County and only 10% of them are in the area that our church members reside. He noted that 5 area churches had in person fairs this past weekend, masks were optional. Pastor John mentioned that in the Federated Church where the ecumenical Thanksgiving service was held masks were optional. Our members that attended were a bit uncomfortable with that according to Pastor. He did not know if any cases were reported due to that but Father Bob thinks that his COVID infection was related. Garnet Olson also expressed her wish for knowing an end date of mandatory masking. She notes that no one in restaurants appear to wear them, except the staff. It is realized that the church is not of one mind here and it is best to err on the side of caution.

Treasurer: All is well. Update on fundraisers: Pies-\$3800.16, On-line Christmas Fair-\$3249.00, Thrift Shop-\$2016.50

SPRC: Garnet Olson gave us handouts as she did not send a report ahead of this meeting. A meeting was held on Dec. 2nd prior to the Charge Conference. They approved Pastor's vacation and professional time off schedule. They also met separately with the District Superintendent, the Rev. Megan Stowe. They answered her questions regarding the parsonage and church building, etc.

Trustees: The outside lighting project has been completed. Two more outlets are needed in the Audio-Visual room. They have a quote of \$1500, which was deemed too high so they will continue to pursue it. Kevin is moving forward with reinvesting the memorial funds to a higher interest paying account. Hannah is working on a labyrinth for the top of the hill. Garnet said Al Sergel, our sexton, asked about cleaning the carpeting. No one seemed to know when it was done last. Gary will bring it up at the next trustees meeting.

Ministry Team: see report

UMW: Nancy Luscombe mentioned something not included in their report, because they would like to keep it a surprise until the end of January.

Old Business:

John has 3 volunteer administrative assistants.

Fund Raising Tithe update:

- Since the original plan of the tithe from the Thrift Store was not needed where it was suggested the council decided to give the Thrift Store volunteers the power to decide where they would like it used. They should report it to the Council for final approval.
- After some further discussion, Gary Picard made the following motion: The church's major fund raising groups may decide where their tithe (10%) for mission should be used. It should be submitted to the Council for final approval. The UMM and UMW are excluded as they are their own entities, separate from the church. Kevin Hunt seconded it and it was approved unanimously.
- It was again suggested that this be spread among the towns from which the members come.

The Trustees key list is mostly up to date.

New Business:

The Council has been assigned the task of voting regarding the Boy Scouts of America Chapter 11 filing. Since the United Methodist Church is the largest group that has Chartered troops, they could be named in lawsuits regarding past sexual abuse in BSA. UMC AdHoc committee at the bargaining table does not think that the current settlement agreement is complete. It would only cover cases between 1976 and 2020. They feel it does not adequately compensate the abused nor provide good protection for the UMC. We have been advised not to accept it.

The District Superintendent Rev. Megan Stowe spoke a bit about it at the Charge Conference on Dec. 2. After the meeting Pastor John polled the people who attended to see how they would vote to give the Council guidance. Every vote cast was NO.

Kevin Hunt made the following motion:

“The Charlton City United Methodist Church votes NO on the BSA Plan of Reorganization because the plan as proposed does not have a release for charter organizations. If prior to the hearing to approve the plan, charter organizations, including United Methodist charter organizations, receive appropriate release from BSA abuse claims relating to scouting activities, the Charlton City United Methodist reserves the right to change its vote and authorize lawyers representing the United Methodists in a BSA bankruptcy to vote in favor of the plan and to opt out of the third party release in Article X.J.4 of the plan. No person shall be held personally liable.”

Gary Picard seconded it. Votes in favor - 8, votes opposed – 0, abstentions – 0

Keith Luscombe and Pastor John will mark the ballots and Keith will overnight them as directed.

Visioning as a church will be done after Sunday services starting in January and finishing by the end of February. There will be retreat type meeting for church leaders to plan what to do with the results of the visioning. It will be Saturday, March 26 from 1:00 – 6:00 or maybe 7:00. If more time is needed the group will meet after church on Sunday, the 27 for a couple of hours.

Garnet Olson asked if the minutes to the meeting could be sent out sooner than the Sunday before the meeting. She had missed the last meeting and did not get the information that Hannah was looking for photos of the church leaders. Nancy will try.

We were asked to reaffirm Sandy Dam as a Certified Lay Minister and Jeanne Kosakowski as a Certified Lay Speaker. We did unanimously.

Signage: Hannah mentioned that she thinks the signs at the entrance to the of the church grounds look messy and wondered if others agree. It was suggested that the orange sign attached to our normal sign could be removed. Gary Picard has agreed to do that. The thrift store signs will be removed after the 18th when the shop closes for the winter. Trustees will look into different signage. Gary suggested it might be possible to get an electric sign. Pastor John said that we might be able to get a grant from the conference. When he gets some prices he should speak with Donna Kondracki, our grant writer.

The Safe Sanctuary discussion on the agenda was postponed until next meeting.

Nancy Luscombe closed the meeting with a prayer by Bishop Devhadar.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Luscombe

The next meeting is January 4, 2022