CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEENAH/ MENASHA

Ministry Council Minutes
January 8, 2026

Present: Pastor Rob, Terri Flesburg, Chuck Luebke, Mary Janness, Sue Knuth, Chris Parsons, Sherri Jischke, Becky Nichols, Kevin Shumann

Missing: Jeff Nichols, Marilyn Kostrzak, Connie Regazzi, Signa Meyers

Quorum Count (at least six council members/more than one-half of council): Quorum confirmed.

Minutes taken by: Chris Parsons

Gathering Devotion: Chuck Luebke

Approval of December 4, 2025 Agenda and Minutes: Approved

Consent Agenda Items:

Item	Owner	Minutes from last meeting
Ministry of Spiritual Life Highlights • Next meeting is Sunday January 11 • Thanksgiving Eve and all Christmas services went well. **Thanks to all who served!** • The first "Fun committee" event is scheduled for January 16. Escalations or decisions • None	Terri	September 14, 2025
Ministry of Service Highlights • Next meeting is February 22. Escalations or decisions • None	Mary	November 19, 2025
Ministry of Faith Development Highlights • Next meeting is Tuesday January 13. MoFD meets every other month. • On January 12, the youth are assisting at Pizza Ranch in Oshkosh. Escalations or decisions • None	Becky	November 11, 2025
Ministry of Stewardship (Stewardship, Finance, Building and Grounds, Insurance) Highlights • Recent expenses include the following: • New concrete sidewalks	Kevin (representing Jeff)	December 16, 2025

• Paper supplies (increased costs from increased activity) • Steeple light repair • Door hinge repair for side door • New upholstery for lounge chairs • Fobs to access building; keys no longer work. • New fire alarm system • Technology/sound improvements • Nonprofit Bookkeeping – No comparable costs are available as this is the first year of their services. • Additional expenses and fees • Possible upcoming expense is re-starting the hot water re-circulating line. • Cost of insurance increased about 9%. **Much appreciation to Sue Dolhopf for her diligence in making sure we are adequately insured.** • LE reimbursement fee increased approximately $200/month (for supplies and energy cost increases) • Pastor Rob provided the council a preview of the 2026 Budget Hearings Escalations or decisions • None		
Pastor's Report Highlights • On December 21, 2025, we were blessed to welcome the Stinson family – Paul, Heather, Aubryn, Sebastian, and Penelope – into our congregation. Their presence is a joy, and we look forward to walking together in faith and fellowship. • Pastor is taking a four-session class over the next four months with Eden Theological Seminary on the letters of Paul and his views of the afterlife. • December 2025 attendance reflects an increase of 29 people per week compared to December 2024. This growth is encouraging and suggests strong engagement during the Advent and Christmas season. An increase of 29 people per week is an amazing metric for a church of our size and reflects that what we do holds value for many. Escalations or decisions • None	Pastor Rob	December 2025

Discussion Agenda:

Old Business

- Appreciative Inquiry – Pastor Rob
  - Next meeting is Saturday January 31. Pastor Rob started a sermon series on January 11, 2026, on what the church is going to dream, with dreams to be shared on January 31. Considering the progress to date, the process has been shortened, with only two remaining sessions (January and March) instead of three.

- Habitat for Humanity build team update – Mary

- Attendance at the January 7 meeting was excellent. Major financial commitments have already been made, and other sources of funds have been uncovered. There is already $30,000 in commitments toward the $100,000 needed.

- Closing Procedure
  - Mass text message is not an option due to technology limitations. In the event Sunday services are canceled, emails will be sent, Facebook post will be made, and local media will be contacted.

New Business

- Calendar Review
  - January 11 - Congregation Conversation
  - January 14 - Choir Practice
  - January 15 – Lake Edge Meal Prep project (initial project for Lake Edge Cares outreach project). Email sent to congregation for awareness.
  - January 15 – Bags to Benches. The team is starting to collect for a new bench.
  - January 16 – Fun with Friends: Board Games
  - Ongoing Scout Meetings – Troop 50 has started meeting here.

- Summer Worship Hours – Pastor Rob
  - The council discussed the possibility of adjusting worship time for summer and decided not to consider the possibility further at this time.

- LELC contract update – Sue
  - The updated contract has been approved. The reimbursement fee has increased an additional $200 per month.

- Annual Meeting planning/needs – all
  - Food will be provided. Mary will determine options for food.
  - The meeting will be in Fellowship Hall and take place immediately after the service on February 1.

- Congregational Conversation for January reminder
  - January 11 – Becky and Chuck
  - February 8 – Sue and Mary

- The approach for the rummage sale and other opportunities during the Doty Island rummage sale weekend will be discussed at future council meetings.

Lord's Prayer

Next meeting: February 5, 2026

Next Devotion: Mary Janness