CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEENAH/ MENASHA

Ministry Council Minutes
February 5, 2026

Present: Pastor Rob, Chuck Luebke, Mary Janness, Sue Knuth, Chris Parsons, Becky Nichols, Signa Meyers, Connie Regazzi

Missing: Sherri Jischke, Marilyn Kostrzak, Terri Flesburg, Jeff Nichols

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

Minutes taken by: Chris Parsons

Welcome Guests: Sue Dollhopf, Kevin Shumann

Gathering Devotion: Mary Janness

Approval of January 8, 2025 Agenda and Minutes: Approved

Consent Agenda Items:

Item	Owner	Minutes from last meeting

Ministry of Spiritual Life
Highlights
• Lenten suppers will be soup, bread, and dessert, with mac & cheese for kids and will be provided by the Ministries, Council, and Choir.
  • February 18 – Spiritual Life
  • February 25 – Service
  • March 4 – Choir
  • March 11 – Council
  • March 18 – Faith Development
  • March 25 – Stewardship
• Cake will be provided after service on February 15 to celebrate the church's 175th birthday.
• St. Paul's will be hosting Maundy Thursday service, and CUCCNM will be hosting Good Friday services. Each service will begin at 7:00 pm.
• Summer evening services will be held on the same day as outdoor services this summer (June 21, July 19, and August 16).
Escalations or decisions
• None
	Sue Dollhopf (representing Terri)	January 11, 2026

Ministry of Service Highlights • Next meeting is February 22. • The 50% match was discussed at Annual Meeting; Stewardship will discuss and review with Ministry of Service.	Mary	November 19, 2025

Escalations or decisions • None		
Ministry of Faith Development Highlights • High School Sunday School is on temporary hiatus; Pastor and Alanna will contact youth and families about wants and needs. Pastor is still meeting with the high school youth once per month. The youth are still participating in many other ways. • Silent Auction will not be held this year. Fundraising efforts for faith development are being evaluated. • Faith Development Fund this month is February's special giving, and youth will be sharing about camp during services. Escalations or decisions • None	Becky	January 13, 2026

Ministry of Stewardship (Stewardship, Finance, Building and Grounds, Insurance)
Highlights
• The Ministry met with Erica Strevel from Non-Profit Bookkeeping. She addressed many questions regarding finance reports (reimbursements, temporary fund, how to read reports, access to more detailed reports (such as reports related to facilities)).
• Building and Grounds
  • Issues with building heat during cold snap and failure of control panel of one boiler; Lake Edge had to close because rooms failed to warm to proper temperature required by state licensing).
  • Thermometers are not reporting correctly; Central Temp will provide a quote to replace the thermostats.
  • Quotes are being requested for new flooring in the Narthex, Corridors, and Fellowship Hall. **Council will further discuss flooring at March's meeting.**
  • Ministry is evaluating how to better report activities in Buildings and Grounds (quotes, projects, etc.) to the congregation.
• Stewardship will hold special meetings to discuss long-term giving and to evaluate the patterns of giving over the past 10 years.
Escalations or decisions
• None
	Kevin Shumann (representing Jeff)	January 27, 2026

Pastor's Report Highlights • 19 face-to-face visits in office for pastoral care. Requests for pastoral care continue to grow. • Reworking confirmation program for 2026-2027. • Anonymous donors are willing to provide funds to preserve church history and to provide funds to start a conversation related to solar panels for the church. Escalations or decisions • None	Pastor Rob	January 2026

Discussion Agenda:

Old Business

- Habitat for Humanity build team update – Mary
    - The church is proceeding with funding and building Habitat Home 401. Steph Vrabec is leading the committee.

- 175th Anniversary – Mary
    - Church will host a community birthday party for our church on July 19, which is the same date as the summer picnic / chicken dinner. Invitations will be sent to neighbors with Doty Island addresses; Doty Island Development Council has a mailing list. Mary will align with Anniversary committee, Fun Committee, and Spiritual Life to coordinate with picnic. Some possible activities and offerings include bounce house, face painting, tours of church (including labyrinth), food truck.

New Business

- Calendar Review
    - February 6 – Youth group ice skating
    - February 6-7 – Boy Scout lock-in
    - February 8 – Camp Sunday
    - February 8 – Congregational Conversation
    - February 15 – Scout Sunday
    - February 15 – 3rd 175th anniversary service, cake
    - February 18 – Ash Wednesday with Lenten supper
    - February 20 – Parents Night out
    - February 22 – Fun with Friend (Bowling)

- Appreciative Inquiry – Pastor Rob
    - Pastor Rob and Becky will lead a new path forward to finalize the process, which will be more inclusive and proceed by consensus.
    - Pastor Rob will contact Bonnie Andrews to end the engagement with her and will contact the conference for a refund of some monies.
    - New dates will be selected for next meetings.
    - An announcement will be made to congregation on Sunday.

- Wisconsin Conference April 10 and 11 – Signa and Sue
    - Church usually sends people, as we have two voting delegates. Pastor Rob is attending this year, and Marilyn is attending as member of Council Conference Board
    - Conference is at Green Lake Convention Center. It is two-day statewide UCC meeting and includes voting on the business of the conference.
    - The congregation will be made aware of the opportunity to attend as a delegate. Anyone interested in attending (one or both days) is to let Melaine or Pastor Rob know.

- Palm Sunday – Sue
    - Wisconsin Council of Churches is planning a rally (against Christian Nationalism and activities of ICE) on Palm Sunday (March 29) at Houdini Plaza (1:00 pm to 3:00 pm). At least 13 churches will be participating, with CUCCNM as one of the churches. Pastor Rob will be a speaker.
    - A series of meetings will be held in advance for preparation.
    - It is an interfaith event with ACLU and various humanities organizations also participating.

- ICE review – Pastor Rob
    - The Wisconsin Council of Churches and Wisconsin chapter of ACLU held a meeting regarding how churches can respond to ICE when they come to town.

    - Day cares/preschools are targets for ICE. Information was shared with Lake Edge; they will draft their own plan
    - A small working group was formed to develop a set of recommendations (Sue, Kevin, Becky, Chris, Pastor Rob).

- Rummage Sale (June 12-13) – Cindy Anderson is interested in leading the effort, and others are willing to work with her as cashiers and sorters. There will be no drop-off of items until after Service Sunday. Mary will continue to co-ordinate with Cindy. Lake Edge will not be moving for the sale. Team will evaluate possible ways to creatively use other spaces.

- Pride (June 12-13) – Because of other activities, the recommendation is to not have a booth this year. Instead of funds for a booth, church will contribute funds as a sponsor. Pastor Rob will review the sponsorship page and select a sponsorship opportunity.

- Lenten services childcare – Childcare will continue to be offered for each Lenten dinner/service. Individuals are available to provide childcare, and funds are available from the Congregational Enrichment Fund ($72/week)

- Congregational Conversation for February through May (TO ADD)
    - February 8 – Sue and Mary
    - March 8 – Becky and Signa
    - April 12 – Connie and Sherri
    - May 10 – Chuck and Chris

Lord's Prayer

Next meeting: March 5, 2026

Next Devotion: Pastor Rob