CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEENAH/ MENASHA

Ministry Council Minutes
May 7, 2026

Present: Pastor Rob, Chuck Luebke, Mary Janness, Sue Knuth, Chris Parsons, Connie Regazzi, Terri Flesburg, Sherri Jischke, Marilyn Kostrzak, Becky Nichols

Missing: Jeff Nichols, Signa Meyers

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

Minutes taken by: Chris Parsons

Welcome Guests: none

Gathering Devotion: Sue Knuth

Approval of April 1, 2026 Agenda and Minutes: Approved

Consent Agenda Items:

Item	Owner	Minutes from last meeting
Ministry of Spiritual Life Highlights • Ministry met on Sunday May 3; meeting minutes will be shared and referenced in June Council minutes. • Ministry purchased twenty-four $10 gift cards. • Outdoor worship services will be held the third Sunday of June, July, August at 6:00 pm, with usual services in the mornings. • Sherri Jiscchke accepted the nomination to be the new coordinator for Spiritual Life; she will resign as at-large member. (Please see further discussion under New Business below.) • New nursery is still in development; MOFD will initiate and then hand off to MOSL for ongoing co-ordination. • Next meeting is September 20. Escalations or decisions • None	Terri	January 11, 2026
Ministry of Service Highlights • Ministry is looking for a time to meet; there was an informal meeting of three people in February, with no minutes due to the informal nature of the meeting. • Service Sunday is May 17. • Petie Agnew joined Ministry of Service. Escalations or decisions • None	Mary	November 19, 2025

Ministry of Faith Development Highlights • Ministry met on May 5. • Ministry is conducting a full review of the safe conduct policy, with re-approval in 2027. • High school "Sunday school" will now be referred to as High School faith development. • Ministry will meet in July. That meeting will provide a report on funds raised at various events and include a discussion about future fundraising events. Escalations or decisions • None.	Becky	March 24, 2026
Ministry of Stewardship (Stewardship, Finance, Building and Grounds, Insurance) Highlights • For the flooring project: installation is officially done, punch list of touch up items to be received in the next couple of days, check will be sent after touch up items are complete, some items are still to be moved back. • Quotes for roof repair are being collected. • Dead crab apple tree needs to be removed. • Quotes for solar paneling will be collected at some point in the future. • Boiler issues this year were limited to the control panel failure. The boiler itself is in good condition, with the 2028/2029 plan including a replacement. Church previously had an annual contract for maintenance but now pays for repairs instead of annual maintenance. Additional escalations or decisions • None	Marilyn (for Jeff)	April 28, 2026
Pastor's Report Highlights • Pastor continues to make many phone calls and hospital visits. • Pastor is assisting Habitat for Humanity, particularly assisting with locating properties to build. Flyers are available for further information for those wanting to sell or donate property. Specific to the House 401 build, CUCCNM is looking for property on Doty Island, and a bulletin insert has been developed for guidance on how to give to Habitat 401. • Pastor will be participating in a three-day retreat at Moon Beach May 28-30. Escalations or decisions • None	Pastor Rob	April 2026

Discussion Agenda:

Old Business

- ICE Review – Chris, et al.
    - It was proposed to put further development and training related to an ICE policy on hold considering the current political environment (and somewhat de-escalation of ICE activity) and other initiatives and activities as a better use of resources.

- Appreciative Inquiry Update/Visioning Process – Becky
    - The March session generated several great ideas, including a desire to create and develop deep connections, spiritually and with each other. The working team is investigating ways (such as Dinner Church) to develop connections and to build relationships in the congregation and the community.
    - Other events are happening or will be happening this summer, such as alternative services (or services that look a little different).
    - CUCCNM does a lot of things, via our ministries and via ad hoc committees and events. People have commented that we already do so much, how are we going to fit in more? We are contemplating a process for letting go of things.

- Flooring project updates and needs – Marilyn
    - Please see update under Ministry of Stewardship above.

- Nursery progress – Becky
    - MOFD sent a request to Signa to contact LELC about additional use of a classroom for a nursery; they have agreed. We are now working out the details. More updates regarding organizing the nursery will be available from the July MOFD meeting. There is a consideration to throw the church a baby shower to restock the nursery.

New Business

- All church rummage sale update – Connie
    - Plans for all activities are progressing: rummage sale, brat fry, plant sale, bake sale.

- All church rummage sale proceeds – Mary and Marilyn
    - Proceeds from the rummage sale and plant sale go to the fundraising line for CUCCNM and support programs for the church.
    - Proceeds from the brat fry and bake sale go to Faith Development.

- Fun committee – Connie
    - Timber Rattler game – August 2. This is Faith and Family Day. CUCCNM will earn $3 for every ticket sold via the QR code on the flyer.
    - Bingo night – May 15

- Hiring practices – Pastor Rob
    - Personnel Committee manages hiring process.
    - Personnel pay is associated with what is allowed in the budget. Wages are reviewed annually by Personnel Committee and/or Stewardship, and the Personnel Committee and Stewardship discuss if wages need to be reviewed and/or increased based on market wages.

- Nominations for Spiritual Life – Terri and Pastor Rob
    - Pastor Rob and Sue nominated Sherri to be chair for Spiritual Life for a three-year term, beginning June 1. Sherri is resigning from her at-large position. Council is looking for another at-large member.
    - MOSL is actively trying to find additional members. Terri will continue to serve on the committee.
    - Council acknowledges and greatly appreciates Terri's service as chair.

- Council discussed some concerns with LELC issues.

- Council endorsed continued use of Paige Puguh as substitute preacher.

- Calendar Review
    - May 8 – Parents night out
    - May 10 – Congregation Conversation (Chuck and Chris)

- May 10 – no Sunday school
- May 11 – First faith formation meeting with parents to discuss incoming confirmation class
- May 17 – Second faith formation meeting with parents to discuss incoming confirmation class
- May 24 – no Sunday School
- May 31 – Last day of Sunday School

Lord's Prayer

Next meeting: moved to June 11, 2026

Next Devotion: Marilyn