CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEENAH/ MENASHA

Ministry Council Minutes
August 6, 2026
Neenah Public Library
Aylward Room 201
Reserved until 8:15 pm

Present: Pastor Rob, Signa Mayers, Sue Knuth, Marilyn Kostrzak, Mary Janness, Sherri Jischke, Denise Stewart, Chuck Luebke, Connie Regazzi, Chris Parsons

Missing:

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

Minutes taken by: Chris Parsons

Welcome Guests: Dan Jischke, Kevin Shumann

Gathering Devotion: Chuck

Approval of June 11, 2026 Agenda and Minutes: Approved without revisions

Approval of minutes of Special Meeting Ministry Council (May 27, 2026): Approved without revisions

Agenda Items:

- Clean-up and Recovery efforts recap – Signa and Pastor Rob
    - The leadership (formal and informal) of the church has been and is greatly appreciated as we respond to and recover from the tornado.
    - Disaster Response Updates
        - Our response efforts will be organized around four pillars:
            - Member and Community Needs (led Pastor Rob) – This pillar addresses immediate safety and needs of members and will continue to address ongoing needs related to pastoral care and individual trauma recovery as needed.
            - Financial Stewardship and Grant Management (led by Marilyn) – This pillar manages receipt of website gifts, receipt of gift cards and other donations, and other financial matters. This pillar will also assist with grants.
            - Site Assessment, Utility and Property (led by Kevin and Sue Dollhopf) – This pillar manages insurance and physical property assessment and recovery. **All quotes and claims need to be submitted to and go through insurance.**
            - Volunteer Coordination (Signa) – This pillar coordinates volunteers. Names and emails of individuals offering time and talents are being collected. Any future FEMA declaration as “disaster” could impact volunteer efforts. As of August 12, 2026, a FEMA disaster / state of emergency has not been declared, and FEMA is not yet involved in the recovery efforts.
            - Current responses:

        - Money – As of now, the easiest way for people to help is giving through website.
        - Items – We are not currently accepting items.
        - Volunteer time – As of today, we cannot have any groups of volunteers come on our site. Individual members of the church may work individually with Kevin if they would like to assist Kevin. **This must be coordinated with Kevin. Please contact Kevin via email for additional information.**
            - Anyone coming on site must sign a Volunteer Waiver form.
        - Showers are staffed by volunteers from Christ the Rock Community Church.
        - CUCCNM Internet Café will be staffed through Saturday August 8. Limited numbers of people have used the café, but it has met the needs of those who came.
    - Building and Grounds recovery work:
        - Lowney's Tree Service (All contracts have been submitted to insurance.)
            - Provided immediate urgent clean-up
            - Removed trees from building
            - Cleaned up some of the playground
        - Packerland
            - Window glass replacement
        - Studio K
            - Stain glass repair for one window
        - Security Luebke
            - Garage roof repair
        - HVAC
            - Evaluated by insurance company adjuster
        - MACCO's
            - Flooring in Room 4. Room 4 had tile damage and one broken window. This room is currently unusable for LELC
        - Team Rubicon (a volunteer agency accredited and certified through FEMA)
            - We submitted a request for assistance with further clean-up of the property (nails, glass, and other small debris removal).
    - LELC:
        - Signa is facilitating communication with LELC. LELC is planning a tentative return to the building on August 17. We have offered Room 7 as an alternative to Room 4. LELC (with co-ordination by Kevin) will need to move furniture from Room 7 to choir room.

- Next Steps:
    - Katie Howie (UCC Minister for Disaster Response) will be visiting August 15-19 and will be joining us for worship on August 16. She will also be available for additional leadership and leadership guidance at later dates. Support is also being provided by Rev. Bridget Hill (Wisconsin Conference Disaster Response Coordinator) and Rev. Franz Rigert (Wisconsin Conference Minister).
    - Communications
        - Tornado version of Glad Tidings is being considered.
        - Letter to congregation will be distributed tomorrow (August 7).
        - Ongoing communications will attempt to address different communication preferences across our congregation.

- Menasha/Neenah/Fox Crossing held a Town Hall on August 6.
    - City leaders continue to request that people call 211 and report damage.
    - City leaders provided logistics of debris removal.

Discussion Agenda:

Old Business

- House 401 – Mary
  - The Hollywood for Humanity benefit raised $10,141.43 (net proceeds). To date, the church has collected $86,199. An unknown amount of additional funds has been given directly to Habitat for Humanity for House 401.

- Nursery update – Denise
  - A baby shower to collect toys for the nursery is tentatively scheduled for October.

- Craft fair – Connie
  - Amy feels it is best to cancel the craft fair for this year, considering the tornado and our location and also potential difficulties in attracting vendors.

New Business

- History Hallway – Sherri and Connie
  - With the lounge flooring being replaced (including repair of the concrete), it is requested to have the same flooring throughout and to order flooring to ensure the same color throughout. Kevin will bring the quote to Stewardship for approval for flooring for the lounge.
  - Some pictures have been placed. Some additional pictures have been requested from Habitat for Humanity. Some items stored in the garage appear to be intact.

- Keys for Council Members – Chuck
  - Individuals may have experienced issues with fobs working in the aftermath of the tornado. The battery back-up is only for two days. Martin also recently repaired the parking lot door.
  - Stewardship to discuss issuing keys to council members who need an alternative way to get into the facility when fobs do not work.

- Alan retirement – Signa
  - Alan's retirement gift has been purchased and will be presented to Alan at a later date.

- Personnel Committee – Dan
  - The custodian position has not yet been posted. Stewardship will review the posting at the next meeting on August 25.

- Calendar Review
  - Tuesday morning group is continuing to meet at Four Seasons.
  - Sunday August 9 – worship at St. Paul's at 9:30 am, with brief update for CUCCNM immediately following service
  - No Bible study for next two weeks
  - Sunday August 16 – Katie Howie joining us for worship service. Service will be indoors with no pet blessing.
  - Tuesday August 18 – Community Table
  - Friday September 11 – first Youth Group meeting
  - Sunday September 13 – first day of Sunday School

Lord's Prayer

Next meeting: September 3, 2026

Next Devotion: Mary