CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEENAH/ MENASHA

Ministry Council Minutes
June 11, 2026

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

Missing: 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: Marilyn

Approval of May 7, 2026 Agenda and Minutes: Approved

Consent Agenda Items:

Item	Owner	Minutes from last meeting
Ministry of Spiritual Life Highlights • Communion and other matters are planned through the summer. • A visitation team is being set up, and volunteers are being recruited for the nursery starting in the fall. • Outside Sunday morning services are the third Sunday of the month. Outside Sunday evening services have been moved to the last Sunday of the month. Escalations or decisions • None	Sherri	May 3, 2026
Ministry of Service Highlights • Mission moment project for June is Pathway of Hope with Salvation Army. A representative will speak at service on June 28. Pathway of Hope works with moving families toward self-sufficiency. • For future Service Sundays, consider possibly starting later and having lunch later to continue to increase attendance. All this year's activities were equally popular, with a similar number of people at each one. The organizations served were grateful. Benches have been delivered to Remarkable, Menasha Conservancy, local group home, and Hope Fridge. Escalations or decisions • None	Mary	May 18, 2026

Ministry of Faith Development Highlights • Minutes from May meeting will be released. The May meeting included a discussion on space needs; the discussion will be revisited in view of the recent announcement regarding LELC. • Ideas for high school Sunday school (including coffee Sundays and campfires) were discussed. • Next meeting will be in July, during which plans for next year's Sunday school will be finalized and further planning for the nursery will be made. Escalations or decisions • None.	Becky	March 24, 2026
Ministry of Stewardship (Stewardship, Finance, Building and Grounds, Insurance) Highlights • Flooring project is basically completed; some items remain to be put away. We are still waiting for the MACCO bill. • The history wall will be completed after the rummage sale. • Twelve (12) new round tables were purchased, using funds from unrestricted memorial funds and the Forever Facilities fund. The old tables will be sold. • Additional congregational assistance is needed with landscaping and upkeep around the building; without additional volunteers, mulch will be added to certain areas outside to simplify and minimize. The previous "adopt a section" did not garner enough interest. • Funds from the Congregational Enrichment Fund will be used for the July picnic and 175th celebration. • Marilyn will represent Building & Grounds at Council meetings going forward. • Repair options for the broken concrete underneath the bump area in the lounge carpet are being reviewed. The broken concrete is a result of ground moisture. • LELC requested an extension from December 1 to June 2027 or through Summer 2027. Stewardship will further discuss the request on June 23, as Stewardship is currently managing this as a contractual issue. The transition process and timing and communication channels will then be further discussed. Additional escalations or decisions • None	Marilyn	May 26, 2026
Pastor's Report Highlights • As a follow-up to his recent review, Pastor Rob shared his goals for the coming year, including strengthening administrative support, expanding pastoral care through shared ministry, and developing lay-led adult education opportunities. • Hope Fridge Menasha is separating from Oshkosh and looking for a new location.	Pastor Rob	May 2026

• Mission Trip is leaving on Saturday; emergency pastoral care has been arranged. Escalations or decisions • None		

Discussion Agenda:

Old Business

- Appreciative Inquiry Update/Visioning Process – Becky
    - Pastor Rob, Marilyn, Becky, and Chris attended Dinner Church at Congregational Church in Two Rivers. It was a simple worship service, simple fellowship, and simple food service. A similar dinner is done at an Oshkosh church.
    - We are continuing to evaluate possible ways to build relationships and community in our congregation.

- Flooring project updates and needs – Marilyn
    - Please see discussion in Ministry of Stewardship report above.

- Nursery progress – Becky
    - Please see discussions in Ministry of Spiritual Life and Ministry of Faith Development reports above. Additional updates will be provided in August.

New Business

- Fun with Friends – Connie
    - Monies collected are going into the bottom line of budget as general fund-raising line; monies from the Timber Rattlers game will go to same account.
    - Previously Fun with Friends was approved as an ad hoc committee. Based on church by-laws, council now approved the committee to be under Spiritual Life going forward. It will be budgeted as part of Spiritual Life next year.
    - Committee is looking to raise funds to pay for events outside of church (such as bowling), with the possibility of using another fund (such as the Congregational Enrichment Fund) as a resource.

- Fund raising – Marilyn
    - For any fund raising, monies collected go into bottom line of budget as general fund-raising line, except for faith development fund raisers (which go to a temporarily restricted fund). For fund raisers other than faith development fund raisers, the money is treated as a line item, not for a specific fund; temporarily restricted funds must be used for what the fund was set up for.

- Summer Outdoor Worship – Marilyn
    - Alignment is needed on responsibilities for set-up, including who owns what – chairs, lectern, piano, streaming, speakers.
        i. Current
            1. Sound – Tech team
            2. Piano – volunteer
            3. Chairs – still used but preference is for people to bring their own chairs
        ii. Tech team will manage set up for June and ask those who arrive early to help (as needed).
        iii. Spiritual Life will manage set up for July and August and ask those who arrive early to help (as needed).
    - Currently Marilyn and Kevin use their personal phones for streaming.

- Congregational conversations were set up through May. May topics included a little library, alternative name tags, and relationship building opportunities.
    - Alternative name taps for use with lanyards are available from Randy and Signa.

- The Habitat House 401 fundraiser will be on July 16 from 6pm to 10 pm at Emprise Brew Mill Attic (Menasha). Attic is only accessible by stairs.
    - There is a QR Code to reserve tickets, with various payment options.
    - The event will include a Basket Raffle and Silent Auction. Items are being accepted for both.

- Calendar Review
    - June 12-13 – Rummage Sale, Plant Sale, Brat Fry, Bake Sale
    - June 13-21 – Youth Mission trip
    - June 14 – pack-it-up gala
    - Scout meetings throughout the month
    - June 16 – Community Table
    - June 18 – Bags to Benches
    - June 21 – Outdoor worship service following by Ice Cream Social
    - June 23 – Ministry of Stewardship
    - June 28 – Summer Evening worship
    - July 5 – Christmas in July

Lord's Prayer

Next meeting: No Council meeting in July; next meeting is August 6, 2026

Next Devotion: Chuck