CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEENAH/ MENASHA

Ministry Council Minutes
September 3, 2026

Present: Pastor Rob, Signa Meyers, Sue Knuth, Marilyn Kostrzak, Sherri Jischke, Denise Stewart, Chuck Luebke, Chris Parsons

Missing: Mary Janness, Connie Regazzi

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

Minutes taken by: Chris Parsons

Welcome Guests: Kevin Shumann

Gathering Devotion: Pastor Rob

Approval of August 6, 2026 Agenda and Minutes: Approved

Agenda Items:

Item	Owner	Minutes from last meeting
Ministry of Spiritual Life Highlights • Two weeks = next meeting • September 13 = nursery begins Escalations or decisions • **Volunteers are needed for the nursery.**	Sherri	May 3, 2026
Ministry of Service Highlights • No items to report Escalations or decisions • None	Mary	May 18, 2026
Ministry of Faith Development Highlights • September 11 – Youth group meets • September 13 – first day of Sunday School with pancake breakfast at 9:00 am • Room 7 has been deep cleaned. The cabinet and windows still need repair, and walls need to be painted at some point. Escalations or decisions • **Volunteers are needed for the nursery.**	Denise	May 5, 2026

Ministry of Stewardship (Stewardship, Finance, Building and Grounds, Insurance)
 	
Highlights
• August 25, 2026 minutes are lengthy since they include reports of transactions conducted via email.
• Please see August 25, 2026 minutes for year-to-date financial reporting.
  • $222,562 in year-to-date expenses includes $60,000 for flooring, which was not budgeted and will come from POF.
  • Year-to-date, income exceeds expenses by $22,786, as expenses have been less than expected.
  • To date, $102,380 has been collected for Habitat for Humanity House 401. $60,000 is in the bank account and will be moved to special account in POF. $38,598 is already in UCC fund.
  • Bank account also includes approximately $36,000 earmarked for tornado relief. Donations identified as restricted will be used only for building and grounds recovery; donations identified as unrestricted will be used in Pastor's discretion.
• The theme of the Fall Stewardship Campaign is "There our hearts will be." Volunteers are needed to assist with the campaign and to provide a testimonial during service.
• Ministry budgets for 2027 are to be submitted by November 1.
 	
Escalations or decisions
• None
	Marilyn	August 25, 2026

Pastor's Report Highlights • The August report provides a historical record of the tornado and the first month's aftermath. • The August report also introduces the Disaster Response Ad-Hoc Committee / Tornado Recovery Working Group. Please see further notes in New Business below. Escalations or decisions • None	Pastor Rob	August 2026

Discussion Agenda:

Old Business

- Nursery progress – Denise, Sheri
  - **Volunteers are needed for the nursery.**
  - Nursery will have a registration / sign-in / log-in/log-out process, with the expectation that parent/guardian will remain in the building. The registration process will include questions about allergies and any other necessary information.
  - Nursery will be for infant to 3-year-old.
  - It is still the intent to have a shower later this Fall. An Amazon registry will be created.

- House 401 update – Stewardship
    - Please see comments in Ministry of Stewardship highlights above.

- Posting Custodian Position update – Personnel
    - The Custodian Position posting/job description is posted in the building and will also be posted on LinkedIn and/or Indeed.
        Thank you, Alan, for continuing to work during this transition!
        Thank you to the volunteers who are also assisting during this transition!

- Alan's retirement – Signa
    - Alan's actual last day will be set in discussion with personnel committee and confirmed once his replacement starts.
    - Cake and gift presentation will be made closer to Alan's actual last day.

- History hallway – Sherri
    - Additional documentation/item needed for House 1.
    - Further work is to be done with the cabinet in the lounge.

New Business

- Disaster Response Ad-Hoc Committee / Tornado Recovery Working Group – Pastor Rob
    - In general, ad-hoc committees are formed when there is a need (such as the marketing and communications committee in years past).
    - This specific ad hoc committee is being formed due to needed assistance and management with tornado recovery. This committee will work under the trust and guidance of the ministry council and will report to the council for any decision-making assistance.
    - This ad hoc committee is an extension of the building and ground committee, with committee members of Kevin, Max, Byron, Dan, Pastor Rob. The ad hoc committee members will continue as part of the building and grounds committee once this ad hoc committee is dissolved.
    - Next steps:
        i. Now until first snow: clean-up work, preparing for winter (such as addressing root balls and drainage)
        ii. Over winter: planning for future uses of grounds
    - Additional communications will be provided in mid-September.

- Fall Stewardship Campaign – Marilyn
    - Please see comments in Ministry of Stewardship highlights above.

- Calendar Review
    - September 9 – Choir practice starts
    - September 11 – Youth group
    - September 12 – Faith formation class
    - September 12 – Parent's Night Out
    - September 13 – Pancake breakfast
    - September 13 – Bible Sunday
    - September 13 – First Day of Sunday School
    - September 16 – Spaghetti Dinner / Mission Trip review
    - September 19 – All church clean up
    - September 22 – Ministry of Stewardship meeting
    - September 25 – High School Field Trip
    - September 29 – Faith Formation class
    - October 1 – Ministry Council meeting
    - October 2 – Youth group
    - October 7 – Culver's Fundraiser
    - October 13 – NO Bible study
    - October 17 – Faith Formation class visits Congregation B'nai Israel

- October 18 – UNICEF Halloween Party
- October 20 – Community Table
- October 27 – Ministry of Stewardship meeting
- October 27 – Faith Formation class

Lord’s Prayer

Next meeting: October 1, 2026

Next Devotion: Sherri