CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEENAH/ MENASHA

**Ministry Council Minutes**
**October 1, 2026**

**Present:** Pastor Rob, Sue Knuth, Marilyn Kostrzak, Sherri Jischke, Denise Stewart, Connie Regazzi, Chris Parsons

**Missing:** Signa Meyers, Mary Janness, Chuck Luebke

**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:** Sherri

**Approval of September 3, 2026 Agenda and Minutes:** Approved

**Agenda Items:**

| Item | Owner | Minutes from last meeting |
|---|---|---|
| **Ministry of Spiritual Life**<br><br>Highlights<br>• Usher schedule set through spring.<br>• Veteran's tree will be set up October 25.<br>• Blue Christmas service will be held December 20.<br>• Hanging of the Greens will be November 22 after church; taking down will be January 10,<br>• Ministry is planning a November workday before November 22 to prepare for Hanging of the Greens.<br><br>Escalations or decisions<br>• None | Sherri | September 20, 2026 |
| **Ministry of Service**<br><br>Highlights<br>• No report<br><br>Escalations or decisions<br>• None | Mary | May 18, 2026 |
| **Ministry of Faith Development**<br><br>Highlights<br>• Budget has been developed for council approval.<br>• UNICEF party is renamed "Halloween" party. Any extra funds will be added to scholarship fund.<br>• Scholarship policy will be updated. | Denise | September 22, 2026 |

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| • Faith Development will continue to schedule acolytes, bowl ringers, readers, communion helpers through the school year, with scheduling responsibilities then moving to Spiritual Life. As much as possible, consideration will be given for scheduling process to be similar to usher scheduling process.<br>• Time and Talent survey is to be completed by/for each child in a family.<br><br>Escalations or decisions<br>• None | | |
| **<u>Ministry of Stewardship (Stewardship, Finance, Building and Grounds, Insurance)</u>**<br><br>Highlights<br>• Please see Recovery Group notes and costs (attached to the Stewardship minutes) for ongoing information related to tornado clean-up tasks, quotes, and costs.<br>• Finances: Year-to-date expenses were budgeted at $190,000 but actual is $140,000. Income is about $10,000 less than budgeted. $93,000 was withdrawn from POF for flooring project.<br>• In September, we received some insurance money and are still waiting to know the full amount insurance will pay. Depreciation of roof is expected to impact insurance payment.<br>• We have received about $55,000 in gifts for tornado relief money. $5,000 is restricted. Thank you cards are being sent to people who donated.<br>• Roof replacement is scheduled to begin November 9.<br>• Stewardship campaign launched on September 27.<br><br>Escalations or decisions<br>• None | Marilyn | September 29, 2026 |
| **<u>Pastor's Report</u>**<br><br>Highlights<br>• Pastor Rob will be out of town October 7 -12; Paige will be leading the service on October 11.<br>• Pastor Rob and Jill have planned music for the year, with a series of worship services planned for after the Lenten dinners.<br>• Pastor Rob thoroughly enjoyed meeting with Ministry of Spiritual Life.<br>• Faith Formation class started and includes 10 students, the largest class in 49 years (when there were 22 kids).<br><br>Escalations or decisions<br>• None | Pastor Rob | September 2026 |

**Discussion Agenda:**

*Old Business*

- Posting Custodian Position update – Personnel
    - No discussion, as no representative from Personnel Committee was in attendance.

- Disaster Response Ad-Hoc Committee / Tornado Recovery Working Group – Pastor Rob
    - Please see Recovery Group notes and costs (attached to the Stewardship minutes) for ongoing information related to tornado clean-up tasks, quotes, and costs.
        1. Roof replacement is scheduled to begin November 9.
        2. Other work (windows, stain glass) is scheduled.
        3. Work in sanctuary will involve protecting, not moving, the organ.
        4. Floor in Room 4 will be completed in January, when wing is available. Room 4 floor work involves asbestos abatement; Room 4 will be sealed off from the rest of the building with access to Room 4 through outer door in Room 4.
        5. Playground will be cleared out.
        6. Stump grounding will begin October 12-13.
        7. Garage roof work still needs a general contractor.
        8. Yard clean up went well and is ongoing.
        9. Education wing will be rehabbed after first of year.

- Fall Stewardship Campaign – Marilyn
    - Ministries and council are to send budgets to Marilyn on or before November 5 (date of next council meeting).
    - If there is an intent to spend money from Congregational Enrichment Fund (Pride, Chamber of Commerce, communications, etc.), a budget is needed.
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*New Business*

- Head Usher Onboarding – Council
    - Determine ways for head usher to know duties, protocols, expectations, etc.
        i. As of now, only members of Ministry of Spiritual Life are head ushers.
        ii. Ministry of Spiritual Life to update and review instruction sheets, with a goal of expanding and including others as head usher.

- Doty Island Development Corporation (DIDC) – Pastor Rob
    - A cross is carved in stump at end of Nicolet Blvd, on public land, and the DIDC asked if CUCCNM would like the cross when it is removed from the stump. Council is aligned to decline and extends our appreciation for the offer and best wishes for finding a recipient.

- Live Nativity – Connie
    - Menasha will be doing hayrides this year but not the same route on Doty Island. Therefore, we will not do a live nativity this year.

- Nativity in yard – Sherri
    - Ministry of Spiritual of Life will discuss if/when/how/where the nativity will be placed this year.

- Calendar Review
    - October 2 – Youth group
    - October 4 – CROP walk
    - October 6 – NO Bible study
    - October 7 – Culver's Fundraiser
    - October 13 – NO Bible study
    - October 15 – Bags to Benches

- October 16 – Needlers
- October 17 – Faith Formation class visits Congregation B'nai Israel Reform Synagogue
- October 18 – Halloween Party
- October 20 – Community Table, NO Bible study
- October 20 – Ministry of Stewardship meeting
- October 25 – Ministry of Service meeting
- October 27 – Bible study
- October 27 – Faith Formation class
- November 1 – All Saints Day
- November 3 – Bible study
- November 3 – Building and Grounds meeting
- November 5 – Ministry Council meeting
- November 6-8 – Faith Formation Retreat
- November 10 – Bible study
- November 13 – Youth group
- November 17 – Bible study
- November 17 – Faith Formation class
- November 19 – Bags to Benches
- November 20 – Needlers
- November 22 – Hanging of the Greens
- November 23 – Ministry of Faith Development meeting
- November 24 – Bible study
- November 24 – Ministry of Stewardship meeting

**Lord's Prayer**

**Next meeting:** November 5, 2026

**Next Devotion:** Sue