

Church Council Meeting-Minutes

19 April 2026 / NEUMC



Attendees:

Gaye Christmus Stephen Crowell Jane DeCristofaro Antoinette Gaborton-Moss Larry Griner Greg Hafner	Mary Anne Lockard Michael Munn Kristen Miro Melissa Sansolo Jane Scott Jennifer Wargel	Others Tom DeCristofaro
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Agenda

Opening Prayer and/or Devotion	Jennifer Wargel
Review and Approve Minutes	Mary Anne Lockard
Reports	
Ministries	
Nurture Ministry	Debbo Lackore No report
Outreach and Witness Ministries	Gaye Christmus, Jane DeCristofaro - Met this week - We have had a strong response to the request for protein items for the Blessing Box. We still have many of the items provided by the Boy Scouts. - Back Pack Program: The school has advised we now need to provide 120 bags in May. We will continue to collect items during the summer in order to be prepared for the September distribution. - The April 17 Spaghetti dinner was not held. Plans are being made to build community relations thru two community fresh produce distributions planned for May 9 and June 13. These events will be held in the patch and will encourage participants to visit our campus. Eggs, milk, yogurt, and fresh vegetables will be distributed.
Worship Team	Stephen Crowell No report

Lay Leaders	Larry Griner, Jane Scott, Stephen Crowell • Participating in the planning for the church picnic to be held following the church service on May 17. The church will provide hotdogs and hamburgers. Members will be asked to provide sides and desserts.
Youth Group	Weston Cheatham • Revolution Youth Retreat held at the Doubletree event center was very successful • Youth led the Good Friday worship service. • Beginning plans for Salkehatchie • Senior Sunday will be held on May 24 • Weston has sent emails to churches interested in helping with the Blessing Box. Pastor Anntoinette will provide phone numbers to assist in this contact.
United Methodist Men	Herb Hilmer No report
United Women in Faith	Melissa Sansolo • Members made the first quarter apportionment payment in March. • Shared a map labeling activities planned for the coming year. • Activities are being planned to encourage growth in membership • They will not meet on Mother's Day, but will meet later in the month. • Traditionally, the group does not meet in the summer, but monthly fun activities are planned.
Administrative Committees	
Finance Committee	James Cook (read by Jennifer Wargel) • Met last week. We are implementing a more streamlined approach to ministry budgeting and spending for the remainder of this year. • The mortgage has been paid in full, freeing \$2800 each month. • Reserve strategy: Current cash on hand is approximately \$60,000. The Committee approved transfer of \$15,000 from the operating account to a money market account. Combined with \$20,000 held in CDs, total reserves are now \$35,000. • Ministry Support and Budget Process: Finance Committee members will be assigned to individual ministries as points of contact to assist with financial coordination and next year's budget planning. This is intended to improve responsiveness and reduce administrative delays. • Budget adjustments for remainder of the year: A formal process has been established for ministries to request budget adjustments for the remaining three quarters of the year. Budget Adjustment Request form attached. • Designated funds Policy is being reissued. A copy of the policy is attached. • The church is in a strong financial position. The focus moving forward is disciplined stewardship, mission alignment, and enabling ministries to act effectively within clear financial boundaries. • Finance Committee report is attached.

SPRC	Kristen Miro • Committee will meet in May.
Trustees	Mike Munn • All damaged window seals and door frames have been replaced or repaired. • Estimates for the electrical repairs needed for the sanctuary and electrical closet have been considered. Mike made a proposal to the Council that \$5487 be spent to make the electrical repairs needed to the sanctuary and electrical closet. The contract will be awarded to Easy Electric LLC. The Council voted in favor of this proposal. Mike will contact Easy Electric LLC on Monday to arrange for this work to be completed. • Greg Haffner and Mike are in the process of getting estimates for repair of the concrete in front of the office. The Council decided to request repair rather than replacement. The replacement estimate was \$20,000. The Canty company will return on Tuesday to give an estimate for repair of the area.
Report of the Pastor	Pastor Antoinette Gaborton • 11 birthday cards sent • 8 pastoral care calls: • Gil and Pastor Antoinette will visit Kathy Madison • Members to keep in prayer: Faye and Bob Ellrott, Tammy and Barry Sloop, Larry and Dianne Markham, and Mary and Roger (placed in Hospice) • On Easter we welcomed 5 new members, baptized one We have added 29 new members since 2022. • Robbie Miro has been called to ministry. He will be meeting with Pastor Antoinette during the summer. Their meetings will include study of the Gospel of Mark and experiencing a pastoral care visit. • At a later date, a Special Sunday will acknowledge those who are called to ministry. • Met with Nominations and Leadership Committee for a brainstorming session. One leadership goal is to strengthen continuity within committees so that there are seamless transitions of responsibilities from year to year. • Service for the Dedication of A Church Building Free of Debt. 1. Bishop Fairley will not be able to attend but is sending a congratulatory letter. 2. Possible dates, July 12 or 19, at 4 PM. 3. Guest Preacher: District Superintendent, Rev. Fran Elrod 4. Dinner to follow 5. ASAP plans: a. Guest Choir b. Guest List: c. Advocate News d. Menu

	• Vision 2030: Habakkuk 2:2, Proverbs 29:18 • Upcoming events 1. Monday, April 20, 8:30-10:30 Bishop Fairly will be recording prayers for the Conference in our sanctuary. 2. Spiritshore Retreat: A Retreat for Faith Leaders (May 18-22) NC and SC Conferences. Pastor Anntoinette will be one of the speakers on a panel 3. NEUMC Host the "Change to Status Meeting" for Clergy; June 1st or 2nd week 4. NEUMC will Host Training Clergy Women (Pastor invited to be on planning team) 5. SCUMC Confirmation Retreat (Pastor invited to be on planning team for 2027 confirmation retreat for SC Annual Conference) 6. Walk to Emmaus of the Midlands (Pastor one of the Assistant Spiritual Directors October 1-4. • Pastor's notes attached.
Other Business	
Closing Prayer	Stephen Crowell

Submitted by: Mary Anne Lockard, Recording Secretary

Finance Committee Report
Northeast United Methodist Church (NEUMC)
Quarterly Meeting – April 15, 2025

Summary of Key Outcomes

1. Mortgage Payoff

The church mortgage has been fully paid. This eliminates approximately \$2,800 per month in debt service and improves ongoing cash flow.

2. Reserve Strategy

Current cash on hand is approximately \$60,000. The committee approved transferring \$15,000 from the operating account to a money market account. Combined with \$20,000 held in CDs, total reserves are now \$35,000. These funds are intended to remain set aside for the foreseeable future.

3. Ministry Support and Budget Process

Finance Committee members will be assigned to individual ministries as points of contact to assist with financial coordination and next year's budget planning.

Ministries are authorized to operate within their approved budgets without requiring additional approvals for routine expenditures. This is intended to improve responsiveness and reduce administrative delays.

4. Budget Adjustments for Remainder of Year

A formal process has been established for ministries to request budget adjustments for the remaining three quarters of the year. Requests must include:

- Amount requested
- Anticipated quarter of expenditure
- Brief explanation of how the request supports the church's mission: "to know Jesus and make Him known"

Approval will be based on alignment with mission, available resources, and overall church priorities.

5. Stewardship Expectations

With increased flexibility, ministries are expected to:

- Operate within approved budgets
- Use funds in alignment with the church's mission
- Maintain basic documentation of expenses
- Communicate anticipated overages or changes early

6. Designated Gifts Policy Review

The committee is reissuing the Designated Gifts Policy (originally drafted in 2020). Key points:

- Designated funds must be established before contributions can be accepted for a specific purpose
- All contributions become the property of NEUMC and will be used, to the extent possible, for the intended purpose, while ultimately remaining under the authority of the church to be used in its best interest

Conclusion

The church is in a strong financial position. The focus moving forward is disciplined stewardship, mission alignment, and enabling ministries to act effectively within clear financial boundaries.

Northeast United Methodist Church (NEUMC)
Budget Adjustment Request – 2026

Ministry Name: _____

Ministry Leader: _____

Date Submitted: _____

1. Amount Requested

\$ _____

2. Anticipated Quarter of Spending

☐ Q2 ☐ Q3 ☐ Q4

(Select all that apply if split across quarters)

3. Purpose of Request (brief description)

4. Mission Alignment

How does this request support the church's mission
"to know Jesus and make Him known"?

Ministry Leader Signature: _____ Date: _____

Finance Committee Representative Signature:

_____ Date: _____

Final Determination to be made by Church Council

Budget Adjustments and Ministry Spending Guidance

As part of our recent Finance Committee meeting, we are implementing a more streamlined approach to ministry budgeting and spending for the remainder of this year.

With the mortgage now paid off, the church has additional financial capacity. This creates an opportunity to better support ministry work, while maintaining disciplined stewardship.

Budget Adjustment Requests

Each ministry is invited to submit requests for additional funding for the remaining three quarters of the year. This is intended for new or expanded activities that were not included in the original budget.

Requests should include:

- Total amount requested
- Quarter in which funds are expected to be spent
- Brief explanation of how the request supports the church's mission: "to know Jesus and make Him known"

For example, if Trustees anticipate multiple projects totaling \$10,000 this year, that request should be submitted using the attached form with a short justification and expected timing.

Spending Expectations

Approved budgets are intended to be used. Ministries are empowered to act within their approved funding without seeking additional approvals for routine expenses.

At the same time, funding should not be viewed as simply available to spend. All expenditures should clearly support the mission of the church. Resources are to be used intentionally and with purpose.

Designated Gifts Reminder

A copy of the Designated Gifts Policy is attached for review. Two points are especially important:

1. Designated funds must be established in advance before contributions can be accepted for a specific purpose.

2. All funds given to the church become the property of NEUMC. While the church will make every reasonable effort to honor donor intent, all funds remain under the authority of the church and may be used in its best interest.

Next Steps

Please complete and submit the attached budget adjustment form if additional funding is needed this year. Finance Committee members assigned to each ministry are available to assist as needed. Final decision will be made by the Church Council.



PASTOR REPORT

April 19, 2026

- **Pastoral Care** - Through November 14, 2025, *Call – Write – Visit*
8 Pastoral needs and follow-ups (Calls, cards, hospital visitations, home visits, bereavement care). If God lays someone on your heart. Reach out to them.
 - Gil and I are going to visit Kathy Madison
 - Faye Elrod
 - Barry and Tammy
 - Larry Markham – Possibly going home w/o 4/20
 - Roger and Mary (placed in Hospice)
- **Monthly Birthday Cards**
 - April – 11 cards
- **On Easter, we welcomed our newest members**
 - James Pfeffer – Baptized
 - Rachel Cox
 - Tammy Farber
 - Kathleen Gilliland
 - Mike Gilliland
- **Since coming in 2022, we've added 29 new members**
 - 2022 – 4
 - 2023 – 6
 - 2024 – 10
 - 2025 – 4
 - 2026 – 5
- **Called into Ministry: Robbie Miro**
 - First meet-up:
 - What we can expect together
 - Introduction to the Gospel of Mark
 - Gifts Assessment; Likes/Dislikes
 - Hopes for the church
 - Read through the Gospel of Mark (16 chapters)
 - Pastoral Care Visit (1)
 - Special Sunday to acknowledge those who are called (TBA)



PASTOR REPORT

April 19, 2026

- **Nominations and Leadership Committee**

- Brainstorming session
 - Considered the following questions
 - Where is leadership strong?
 - Where are we feeling the gaps or strain?
 - What new needs are emerging?
- Our **one leadership development goal** for this year is to strengthen continuity within committees so that there are seamless transitions and responsibilities year after year.
- Next steps as a committee: connect with leaders
 - How are they doing personally and spiritually?
 - What kind of support would be most life-giving for them in this season?
 - Within their committee, do they see someone who may be called to leadership and nurtured into that role?

- **Service for the Dedication of A Church Building Free of Debt**

- Bishop Fairley sends his regrets; however, he is sending a congratulatory letter to celebrate this momentous occasion in the life of the church
- **Bishop will be here tomorrow, Monday, 20th, from 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM, recording prayers for the Conference**
- Guest preacher: District Superintendent, Rev. Fran Elrod
- Set a date: TBD
- Time: 4:00 PM
- Include a celebratory dinner
- Begin planning ASAP
 - Guest choir
 - Guest list: Conference leaders and guests
 - Menu
 - Advocate News

- **Vision 2030**

- Habakkuk 2:2; Proverbs 29:18



PASTOR REPORT

April 19, 2026

- **Spiritshore Retreat: A Retreat for Faith Leaders (May 18-22) – NC and SC Conferences**
 - Conference speakers
 - Invited to be one of the speakers on a panel with Tiffany Knowlin-Boyken, who will serve as a new District Superintendent in the Walterboro District, with Bishop Tracy S. Malone, the current President of the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church. She serves as bishop in the Indiana Conference, and I believe maybe one other person.
- **NEUMC Host the “Change to Status Meeting” for Clergy**
 - June 1st or 2nd week
 - Conference Registrar, Board of Ordained Ministry
 - Will confirm date and time
- **NEUMC Host Training Clergy Women**
 - Invited to be on the planning team
 - Date TBD
- **SCUMC Confirmation Retreat**
 - Invited by the director of SC Ministries with Young People for SCUMC to be on a planning team for a 2027 confirmation retreat for the SC Annual Conference
- **Walk to Emmaus of the Midlands**
 - Asked to be one of the Assistant Spiritual Directors
 - Next Walk is **October 1-4th**