

# Church Council Meeting-Minutes

16 August 2026 / NEUMC



## Attendees:

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| Weston Cheatham<br>James Cook<br>Stephen Crowell<br>Jane DeCristofaro<br>Antoinette Gaborton-Moss | Larry Griner<br>Mary Anne Lockard<br>Michael Munn<br>Jennifer Wargel | Others<br>Tom DeCristofaro |
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## Agenda

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| Opening Prayer and/or Devotion  | Jennifer Wargel                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Review and Approve Minutes      | Mary Anne Lockard<br>Additions and corrections: Emmaus yard sale will be held October 3 <sup>rd</sup> at Lexington United Methodist Church.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Reports                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Ministries                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Nurture Ministry                | Debbo Lackore <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No report</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Outreach and Witness Ministries | Gaye Christmus, Jane DeCristofaro <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 4<sup>th</sup> and final Fresh Food event will be held on August 29 from 10:00-11:30. The committee is very pleased with the success of these events. The committee plans to continue these events, but not monthly. The next event will possibly be scheduled for just before Thanksgiving or Christmas.</li> <li>Use of the blessing box continues to be high. Protein foods are especially needed. The committee plans to put together a number of Meal-in-a-bag dinners at our next meeting on September 8.</li> <li>The backpack ministry will resume in September, and the first bags will be packed after church on September 6. Heather is still awaiting information from the Sandlapper Elementary guidance counselor regarding the number of bags needed.</li> <li>Mary Mason shared with the committee her idea for a visitation ministry at Dorn VA Medical Center. She and Gil are investigating the process of getting approved as visitors/volunteers.</li> </ul> |

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|                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pastor Antoinette and Crystal Miller shared an update on the Community Garden project. They met with the Richland Library Master Gardner and will form a committee. Greg Hafner has agreed to build two 4x8 raised bed garden boxes. Pastor Antoinette shared that the planting season will be moved from the fall to early spring with the Master Gardner providing several starter plants and support. James Cook suggested this might be a good Eagle Scout project for Nathan.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Worship Team              | Stephen Crowell <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Angi Higgason is interested in joining the music team.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Lay Leaders               | Larry Griner, Jane Scott, Stephen Crowell <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Met last month to discuss plans for hosting Status and Set Up meetings.</li> <li>Will meet in September to begin planning activities and services for Advent.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Youth Group               | Weston Cheatham <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Had a successful trip to Carowinds.</li> <li>White-water trip is planned for Labor Day weekend. The group will leave on Friday and return on Monday.</li> <li>Pumpkin Patch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First truck arrives Oct. 3 at 8 AM (full truck)</li> <li>Second truck arrives Oct. 17 at 8 AM (35% truck)</li> <li>Reached out to Columbia Animal Services to try to arrange a pet adoption at the patch one Saturday.</li> <li>More adult help will be needed to run the Patch since many of our youth have left for college.</li> <li>Question was asked if the congregation has been notified that the Patch is now a church fund raiser. The Youth will now be a budget item.</li> <li>The format of the Christmas Eve Service may need to be changed since we have fewer youth available to participate.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| United Methodist Men      | Herb Hilmer<br>No report                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| United Women in Faith     | Melissa Sansolo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NEUMC Women in Faith completed their fiscal and activities year as of August 15. Those reports have been submitted, and will be shared with the council at the next meeting.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Administrative Committees |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Finance Committee         | James Cook <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our Schwab account has been opened. Presently there are no funds in this account. This account will offer additional yield on our savings and can now also receive stock gifts.</li> <li>After the SPRC completes reviewing salary recommendations, the budget will be reviewed so that it can be submitted to the Church Council and the Charge Conference.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

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| SPRC                 | <p>Kristin Miro</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Committee met on August 9<sup>th</sup> and discussed salary increases. The committee has a proposal to bring to the finance committee in September and later to the Church Council.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Trustees             | <p>Mike Munn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Educational Building has a roof leak over the two bathrooms. We have received one bid and expect to receive a second bid next week. There was a question as to if the warranty of the roof is still in effect. Mike does not think the warranty is in effect.</li> <li>Several trees and limbs need to be removed from the campus. They have received an estimate from the landscaper and are requesting more bids.</li> <li>The question was raised if the Trustees could hold a fund raiser to help with all of these added expenses. Any fund raisers must be held as "Church Wide", but we can designate where funds are to be used.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Report of the Pastor | <p>Pastor Antoinette Gaborton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11 Pastoral Care needs. A memorial service for Mattia Hilmer will be held on August 21<sup>st</sup>. Karen Evans is helping with arrangements.</li> <li>15 birthday cards were sent.</li> <li>Pastor Antoinette's summer meetings with Robbie Miro have been completed and they will continue to meet over the next few months. On September 27 a special litany for the call to ministry will be held for Robbie and any others who feel the call.</li> <li>A Set-Up meeting to create the calendar for 2027 will be held.</li> <li>All Charge conferences will be held in October. NEUMC's Charge Conference will be held at I Dequincey Newman United Methodist Church.</li> <li>Community garden will be planted in the spring.</li> <li>Safe Sanctuary will be held September 10 at 6:30. This is for anyone who works with the youth including Pumpkin Patch.</li> <li>Vision 2030 meeting will be held on August 30. Notes to help facilitate will be sent to all members of the church council.</li> </ul> |
| Other Business       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jane DeCristofaro: 3 small groups will begin to meet in the fall. Sign up sheets will be available in the next few weeks.</li> <li>September 20 next meeting</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Closing Prayer       | Pastor Antoinette                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |