

Church Council Meeting-Minutes

18 January 2026 / NEUMC



Attendees:

Gaye Christmus James Cook Stephen Crowell Jane DeCristofaro Antoinette Gaborton-Moss Larry Griner Greg Hafner Charlie Henry	Debbo Lackore Mary Anne Lockard Michael Munn Kristen Miro Melissa Sansolo Nikki Shaffner Jane Scott Jennifer Wargel	Others Tom DeCristofaro Duane Scott
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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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No report
Outreach and Witness Ministries	Gaye Christmus, Jane DeCristofaro <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Met this week and decided a major goal for the new year will be to build community with those we are serving. As a first step, the church will host a spaghetti dinner for those using the Blessing Box and Angel Tree families on Friday, March 6. The committee is asking for prayers and volunteers.
Worship Team	Stephen Crowell <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beginning to plan for Lent.
Lay Leaders	Larry Griner, Jane Scott, Stephen Crowell <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participating in the planning for Lent.
Youth Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weston Cheatham No report
United Methodist Men	Herb Hilmer

	No report
United Women in Faith	<p>Melissa Sansolo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No report
Administrative Committees	
Finance Committee	<p>James Cook</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Met Wednesday and set goals for the coming year. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Pay off mortgage. The committee has received pledges to cover the remaining mortgage. Depending on the payment schedules of these pledges, the mortgage should be paid off in the Easter-June time frame. Once the mortgage is paid off, we should be in position to be more specific in budgeting financial needs of the church. Pumpkin Patch will be included in the church budget. The Patch will no longer be designated as a separate youth account. The committee continues to plan the set up of the Endowment Charter. The Conference will be contacted to help answer some of the technicalities. In the future we hope to be able to accept more gifts, stock market, etc. No trail of a brokerage account has been found, so a new one will need to be established. Discussing how to represent the budget in a more user-friendly format.
SPRC	<p>Bob Shaffner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No report
Trustees	<p>Mike Munn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broken lock in the Education Building has been repaired. The storage area under the Education Building needs to be cleaned out and insulation replaced. A classroom in the Education Building has developed into a storage room. Plans will be made to sort items and possible installation of a lock to prevent further accumulation. Forest Horn has surveyed the outside property for areas that need attention. Discussed having Christopher create a digital check list on email for the congregation to see and complete needs. Several electrical problems were discussed; buzzing in the electrical room, sanctuary light, adding plugs for donated tvs in sanctuary, and light switches needing replacement. An electrician will be contacted. The contract for the home/school located on campus will not be renewed next school year due to lack of payment. Mike contacted the Director. Discussion of plans to replace or repair sanctuary microphones led to the decision to form a committee to research the best options. Our present budget is not sufficient for these needs.

<p>Report of the Pastor</p>	<p>Pastor Antoinette Gaborton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 birthday cards sent • 6 pastoral care calls Please be sure to contact those who miss church service for more than two weeks, or any who touch your heart. The whole church needs to reach out with care. Please remember the Sloop and Markham families. • Met with 4 committees this week. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Each committee emphasized the need to reach out to our community to build relationships by being the hands and feet of the Lord. 2. By building up our reserves, we can be more specific in making our plans by using money in hand rather than basing them on just budgeted money. 3. Set goals and make plans and accomplish them. Do not just pass along a list to the next committee. 4. Choose the right people for positions. Be sure to follow up and give them the training and support they need. • Nominations for members to serve on the Endowment Charter <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. James Cook 2. Dan Christmus 3. Bianca Brazell <p>A special charge conference will be held to confirm these participants.</p>
<p>Other Business</p>	<p>James Cook: Church mission: To know Jesus and to make Him known. How do we measure our success during the last 12 months? (Church attendance, encounters with nonchurch members, meals, etc.) We need to hold ourselves accountable. Make sure we are developing relationships, not just performing services for those in need. As leaders of the church, we need to reach out more and make connections. We may need to set tangible goals. James will meet with Dale to research numbers for church attendance, etc. Make sure we have a sense of purpose.</p> <p>Pastor Antoinette: recommended the book, <u>Holy Disruption</u> by Tracy S. Daub for looking at the ministry of bringing people to Christ differently.</p> <p>Jane DeChristofaro: Everyone needs to remember to clean up after themselves. Things not being put away properly and old food left in the refrigerator has become a problem. It was suggested a list of chores to be completed when using the kitchen be posted. Cabinets may need to be relabeled and directions for locating cleaning products made available.</p>
<p>Closing Prayer</p>	<p>Stephen Crowell</p>

Submitted by: Mary Anne Lockard, Recording Secretary