

Church Council Meeting–Minutes

19 July 2026 / NEUMC



Attendees:

Gaye Christmus Stephen Crowell Jane DeCristofaro Greg Hafner Charlie Henry	Mary Anne Lockard Michael Munn Kristen Miro Melissa Sansolo Jane Scott Jennifer Wargel	Others Ira Sansolo
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Agenda

Opening Prayer and/or Devotion	Jennifer Wargel Pastor Antoinette is making a pastoral care call and will not be with us today.
Review and Approve Minutes	Mary Anne Lockard
Reports	
Ministries	
Nurture Ministry	Debbo Lackore No report
Outreach and Witness Ministries	Gaye Christmus, Jane DeCristofaro - Another fresh food event was held on Saturday. The last planned distribution is set for the last Saturday in August. After this event the committee will meet to evaluate continuing this program. - Back Pack program will begin soon. - The Richland County Library Master Gardner is working with our church to establish a garden. Crystal Miller will head this committee.
Worship Team	Nikki Shafner No report
Lay Leaders	Larry Griner, Jane Scott, Stephen Crowell - Plan to meet with Antoinette on Wednesday. - Mortgage celebration was very successful. Plans will be made to repeat the montage shown during the celebration at a later time. - Question was asked about the possible date of the next lay leader training.

Youth Group	Weston Cheatham • Jennifer Wargel will co-chair the Pumpkin Patch with Weston this year. • Setup for the patch is scheduled for September 26. • First pumpkin truck arrives on October 3rd and the second is scheduled to arrive on October 17. • Weston is working with Trinity to plan a whitewater rafting trip.
United Methodist Men	Herb Hilmer No report
United Women in Faith	Melissa Sansolo • After taking the month of July off, the next meeting will be held on August 9 after church service. • An email will be sent to collect information needed for reports due on August 15. • NEUMC was asked to host the Training session in January, but we have declined the invitation after hosting the event for the last 3 years. We plan to use 2027 to explore different ways to serve. The group is open to hosting again in 2028. • Please keep Karen in your prayers.
Administrative Committees	
Finance Committee	James Cook • The Apportionment payment was due last Tuesday, but Charlie was unable to make the payment due to the unplanned installation of a new version of Quick Books. The payment will be made this week.
SPRC	Kristen Miro • Next meeting will be on August 9. Salaries will be discussed and the budget requests sent to the finance committee.
Trustees	Mike Munn • No meeting was held in July • Basement needs still must be addressed and corrected. • Flooding outside of the Pastor's office needs to be corrected.
Report of the Pastor	Pastor Antoinette Gaborton • Thanks to all who participated in Part 1 of Vision 2030. • Part 2 of Vision 2030 will be held after church services on August 30. We will listen, reflect, and respond together. All voices will be included, homebound, youth, children, and new attenders. The congregation is invited to come to the listening session ready to dream and share. A potluck luncheon will be held, and extended daycare will be provided. • A detailed outline of events beginning 4 weeks before the event is attached. • The montage shown at the mortgage retirement might be repeated at this event.

Other Business	• Jane DeCristofaro: Plans for the small group studies offered in the fall are being made. A grief and loss outreach is one of the programs being planned. Request was made to offer some evening classes, possibly on Sunday or Wednesday evenings. • Melissa: The Emmaus Walk scheduled for the fall has been cancelled due to finances. A community yard sale will be held on October 3 to help raise funds. The dates for the March Walk have been set, and hopefully the proceeds from the sale will be sufficient to finance the Walk. • A moment of silent prayer was held for those in our congregation experiencing grief and loss.
Closing Prayer	Melissa Sansolo

Submitted by: Mary Anne Lockard, Recording Secretary



Part Two — Vision 2030: Following God's Lead Congregation Listening Session

- Audience: members, youth, and regular guests.
- Duration: 90 minutes.
- Setting: sanctuary with tables of 6–8. **As much as possible, Church Council Leaders do not sit together. Each leader hosts a table.**

Before the Day

- **Four (4) weeks out.**
 - Announce Congregation Listening Session: *Vision 2030: Following God's Lead*
 - Share in worship, the bulletin, the newsletter, Sunday School Classes, etc.
 - Note: This is not a business meeting
- **One (1) week out.**
 - Announce: *Next Sunday, after worship, we'll gather for 90 minutes. We'll hear the 3–5 bold holy hopes the Church Council is prayerfully discerning for NEUMC as we look toward 2030. We'll listen, reflect, and respond together. Please come ready to dream and share. Potluck luncheon. Extended daycare will be provided*
- **1-2 days before.**
 - Set the sanctuary with tables of 6–8.

Inclusion plan — Hearing every voice

Homebound members. Pastor Antoinette

- Two leaders visit or call each homebound member the week before the session and walk them through the questions (listed below). Responses are written and read aloud at the session.
 - Tammie (and Barry) Sloop

Youth (ages 12–17). Director: Weston Cheatham

- At a Youth Night, a parallel conversation will be hosted by the youth director prior to the listening session
- Their responses will be read aloud first (without names)
- Language may be slightly adapted

Children (ages 5–11). Teachers: Sharon Shealy and Pat Hoesly

- Prior to the listening session, children will be invited to draw a picture/write about "Our church on its very best day in 2030."
- Drawings will be displayed in the listening session

New attenders.

- Every third-time guest from the past 12 months receives a personal phone call from a church council member inviting them
 - Mary Bosman
 - Anne Shelton
 - Bonnie Taft
- Transportation(?)

Day of: Why we're gathering

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Proverbs 3:5-6 — NEUMC 2026 theme verse

The Church Council of Northeast UMC wants to hear: What you love about this church, what has shaped you here, and what you hope God will do among us by the year 2030. There are no small ideas. No memory is too old, and no dream is too large.

2. Session flow (90 minutes)

Time	Segment	What happens
10 min	Gather and welcome	Pastor Antoinette welcomes the room and will share: • Why we're gathering today: Vision 2030 • What happened at the leadership brainstorming session • The five (5) holy hopes the leaders named • What the congregation is being asked to do today: Listen, dream, and share.
5 min	Worship and scripture	Hymn "Here I Am Lord," reading of Proverbs 3:5-6
25 min	Block A: Table listening round 1	"What God Has Done Among Us" Short testimony Participation norms Table conversations Quick whole-room sharing
35 min	Block B: Table listening round 2	"What We Hope For" Table conversations Sanctuary walk
15 min	Block C: Prayers of the people	"What We Are Willing to Do" Personal reflection card Congregational Covenant Next Steps and Pastoral benediction