

Church Council Meeting- Minutes



20 July, 2025 / NEUMC

Attendees:

Weston Cheatham
Gaye Christmus
Jane DeCristofaro
Antoinette Gaboton-Moss
Larry Griner
Charlie Henry

Herb Hilmer
Debbo Lackore
Mary Anne Lockard
Michael Munn
Jane Scott
Jennifer Wargel

OTHERS:
Tom DeCristofaro
Christopher Wargel

Agenda

Opening Prayer and/or Devotion	Jennifer Wargel
Review and Approve Minutes	Mary Anne Lockard
Reports	
Ministries	
Nurture Ministry	<p>Debbo Lackore</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Team will meet after summer
Outreach and Witness Ministries	<p>Gaye Christmus, Jane DeCristofaro</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting monthly Main focus has been on the Blessing Box Blessing Box special collections made on the first Sunday of July and August New program: Will set up an Amazon wish list for back pack program supplies. Supplies can be delivered directly to the church. Mini fresh food program was held on July 19. Committee received many contributions. The event was publicized by a sign on the Blessing Box and flyers placed inside the box. Even though only 8 families participated, the event was much appreciated. The committee will meet to assess results at the next meeting.
Worship Team	<p>Stephen Crowell</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New members will join the worship music team: 2 new vocalists, a guitarist, and a drummer.
Lay Leaders	<p>Larry Griner, Jane Scott, Sylvia Cousin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Team is on track following the schedule developed earlier in the year.
	<p>Weston Cheatham</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salkehatchie was a success

Youth Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth did a wonderful job presenting on Salkehatchie Sunday. More photos are available for anyone interested. Youth will have a pool party at the Cook's house in 2 weeks. One youth has requested to be baptized. Weston plans to contact parents concerning a possible confirmation class in the fall.
United Methodist Men	Herb Hilmer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bible study will start on the 2nd Monday in August An email will be sent requesting help in repairing the Blessing Box.
United Women in Faith	Sylvia Cousin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The women have not met during the summer but will resume meeting in August. Mary Mason attended Mission U
Administrative Committees	
Finance Committee	James Cook <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee met last week Starting the second half of the year our budget is stable. Because we have a self-balancing budget, focus is on the whole budget, not just one number. Last month's balance was slightly positive so Charlie will write a check for Apportionments. It is important for us to stay current with Apportionments to be considered "healthy" by the district. Update on capital campaign to pay off mortgage. At the beginning of the year the mortgage balance was \$287,000. Working with individual families, \$130,000 has been received. Applying these funds to the mortgage has allowed us to pay more principal each month. In September a whole church campaign will be begun to pay off the \$150,000 mortgage in less than 3 years. Draft plans to develop and Endowment Charter for NEUMC is attached. The Church Council will vote on the proposal next month before it is presented to the Charge Conference in the fall.
SPRC	Bob Shaffner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No report
Trustees	Mike Munn <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All fire extinguishers are in place Mike will follow up on a request made for ongoing use of the building for meetings for those who are working through alcoholism. The church council voted to offer the building for use free of charge if our facility is needed. Gill was able to arrange for the parking lot stripes to be painted. Methodist men are willing to help complete any projects needed on the church building and grounds. There is a list of needed repairs and other safety needs maintained by Forest Horn in the office.

Report of the Pastor	<p>Pastor Antoinette Gaborton-Moss</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor Antoinette led us in prayer for Stephen 's mother (Marion) and Debbo's family members. • Pastoral care 16 needs • Birthday cards: 5 in June, 13 in July • Nominations committee met. Pastor Antoinette provided several questions to be discussed with present and future committee members. • Jane, Dee, and Weston will meet to discuss small group classes • New members class will have its first meeting on August 3 • Instead of ministry fair, each Sunday one committee will present during church and provide a signup display table for after the service. • Upper Room devotional ministry is doing well. Charlie welcomes all volunteers. • Dr. Dobson's book launce is scheduled for October 24 at 5:30 at Washington Street Church.
Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meeting will be held on August 17
Closing Prayer	James Cook

Submitted by:
Mary Anne Lockard, Recording Secretary

Draft

1. Endowment Charter – NEUMC Everspring Fund

Purpose

The NEUMC Everspring Fund is a permanently established endowment of Northeast United Methodist Church (NEUMC). Its goal is to provide sustainable financial support for the church's ongoing mission and ministries by preserving its principal and distributing dividend and interest income directly to the church's general fund. The Fund is named 'Everspring' to symbolize a perpetual source of support, like a spring that flows continuously, sustaining the church's mission across generations.

Structure

The Fund is overseen by a three-member Everspring Committee, appointed by the Church Council. Members serve staggered six-year terms, ensuring that one seat rotates every two years. To establish this rotation, the initial three members will serve terms of two, four, and six years, respectively.

To preserve independence:

- Committee members may not concurrently hold other leadership positions in the church (such as finance chair, treasurer, or trustee).
- Committee members may not be related by family or have any other close financial or professional nexus to one another.

All members hold equal authority, and the committee functions without a designated chair. Meetings shall be held at least quarterly.

Governance

The Everspring Committee retains exclusive authority over all investment and disbursement decisions related to the Fund. The Trustees of NEUMC will maintain legal custody of the investment account but have no authority to direct or manage fund assets without the unanimous, written consent of the committee.

The church treasurer shall act as the authorized financial agent to execute fund transfers or distributions only upon written direction from the Everspring Committee.

Written account summaries and statements from the investment custodian shall be addressed and mailed to the attention of the Financial Secretary of NEUMC.

All decisions of the Everspring Committee shall require the unanimous agreement of all three members. In the event of an impasse, all committee members agree to submit to internal arbitration facilitated by a disinterested church official, such as the pastor or the Church Council chair, who will mediate and help resolve the disagreement without casting a deciding vote.

Reporting

The committee will submit an annual written report to the Charge Conference that includes both

financial performance and compliance with the Fund's investment policy to the Charge Conference, detailing investment performance, allocation strategy, and disbursements.

Amendments

The terms and policies governing the Fund may only be amended by a unanimous vote of the three committee members.

Vacancies

In the event of a vacancy caused by death, relocation, or resignation, the Church Council will appoint a new member to serve the remaining term within 30 days.

Dissolution

The NEUMC Everspring Fund and its managing committee may be dissolved by a majority vote of a duly convened Charge Conference. Upon dissolution, all assets held in the Fund shall be transferred to the general fund of Northeast United Methodist Church for unrestricted use.

Acknowledgements:

Chair, Church Council

Pastor

Finance Chair

Recording Secretary

2. Investment Policy – NEUMC Everspring Fund

Philosophy

The investment strategy of the NEUMC Everspring Fund is guided by the United Methodist Church's Social Principles. The committee will maintain a prudent balance between capital growth, income generation, and preservation of principal while ensuring investments reflect the church's ethical values.

Investment Guidelines

- All investments must be considerate of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) criteria, which exclude companies whose practices conflict with the United Methodist Church's social principles (e.g., tobacco, firearms, or unethical labor practices).
- No more than 20 percent of the Fund's total portfolio may be held in bonds, money market instruments, or certificates of deposit (CDs), collectively considered cash equivalents. This policy reflects the Fund's design as a perpetual endowment with a long-term investment horizon.
- Temporary breaches of this asset allocation threshold are allowable for up to two consecutive months, but not for three or more.
- The Fund shall be managed internally by the Everspring Committee, unless external licensed advisors are engaged. Portfolio rebalancing shall be conducted at the discretion of the Everspring Committee, based on prudent investment principles and the Fund's long-term objectives.
- If external management is used, the total advisory fee must not exceed 1 percent of the Fund's assets under management.

Prohibited Holdings

- The Fund may not hold illiquid or non-publicly traded assets.
- Donations of real estate, tangible property, or non-tradable assets shall not be accepted.

This policy is adopted by the founding members of the Everspring Committee and shall guide the actions of future committee members.

Committee Member 1

Committee Member 2

Committee Member 3

3. Spending Policy – NEUMC Everspring Fund

Accumulation Phase

During the initial growth period, all dividend and interest income will be reinvested until the Fund's balance reaches \$200,000.

Distribution Phase

Once the Fund's balance exceeds \$200,000:

Accumulation Phase

During the initial growth period, all dividend and interest income will be reinvested until the Fund's balance reaches \$200,000 for two consecutive quarters. If the fund falls below \$200,000 for two consecutive quarters, the accumulation phase shall begin anew.

Distribution Phase

Once the Fund's balance exceeds \$200,000:

- Dividend and interest income must be paid out to the NEUMC general fund within one calendar quarter of being received.
- The Committee shall, by default, disburse all dividend and interest income each year. In addition, it may, by unanimous agreement, authorize total annual distributions up to, but not exceeding, ~~4%~~ ^{5%} of the Fund's balance as of the last trading day of the previous calendar year. This ~~4%~~ ^{5%} cap includes both dividend and interest income already disbursed. Any decision to distribute more than just dividend and interest income must align with the Fund's long-term objectives.
- All distributions will be transferred to the NEUMC general fund, with the specific use of funds to be determined by the Church Council.

This policy is adopted by the founding members of the Everspring Committee and shall guide the actions of future committee members.

Committee Member 1

Committee Member 2

Committee Member 3

4. Trustee Resolution – Establishment of the NEUMC Everspring Fund

Whereas, Northeast United Methodist Church seeks to promote the long-term financial sustainability of its mission;

Whereas, the Charge Conference has approved the formation of a permanent endowment under ¶2534 of the Book of Discipline;

Be it resolved, that:

1. The NEUMC Everspring Fund is hereby formally established as a permanent endowment, intended to preserve its long-term value while distributing income, interest, dividends, and a portion of total return, not to exceed 5% annually, to support the church's general fund.
2. A three-member Everspring Committee, appointed by the Church Council, will hold sole authority over all investment and distribution decisions related to the Fund. All disbursements must be made solely to the Northeast United Methodist Church (NEUMC).
3. The Board of Trustees shall open and maintain the Fund's investment account in the church's name solely as custodians.
4. Trustees shall not access, reallocate, or disburse any portion of the Fund without the unanimous written consent of the Everspring Committee.
5. The Everspring Committee shall operate in accordance with the attached Charter, Investment Policy, and Spending Policy.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 202_, by the Board of Trustees of Northeast United Methodist Church.

Chair, Board of Trustees
