

Church Council Meeting- Minutes



21 September 2025 / NEUMC

Attendees:

Weston Cheatham
Gaye Christmus
Sylvia Cousin
Antoinette Gaboton-Moss
Larry Griner
Charlie Henry
Herb Hilmer

Debbo Lackore
Mary Anne Lockard
Michael Munn
Bob Shaffner
Nikki Shaffner
Jane Scott
Jennifer Wargel

OTHERS:

Agenda

Opening Prayer and/or Devotion	Jennifer Wargel
Review and Approve Minutes	Mary Anne Lockard
Reports	
Ministries	
Nurture Ministry	Debbo Lackore • An email was sent to members asking for ideas • Reaching out and caring for others was emphasized in today's sermon. • Plan: By using the talents you have, others are encouraged to recognize common bonds. • Plan to meet soon to expand on what we are doing now.
Outreach and Witness Ministries	Gaye Christmus, Jane DeCristofaro • Will meet September 30 • The Amazon website list has been activated. Items can be delivered directly to the church. Thanks to Heather, Dale, and Jane D. for helping set up this service.
Worship Team	Stephen Crowell, Nikki Shaffner • A new song will be presented next week • A guitarist will join Indie and Harry as the newest members of the music ministry. • The Christmas Carol program will include 2 pieces sung in parts by the music team and congregational participation hymns. • Plans are being made to have a music and praise date at the Pumpkin Patch. The program will be singing old hymns.

Lay Leaders	Larry Griner, Jane Scott, Sylvia Cousin A lay leader schedule has been developed for the rest of the year.
Youth Group	Weston Cheatham - Thanks to all who helped set up the Pumpkin Patch yesterday. - The first pumpkin truck will arrive Saturday, September 27 at 9 o'clock. Everyone is needed to help unload the truck. The second truck will arrive on October 11. Weston will be out of town for the second truck arrival, and requested extra help be recruited. - On October 19 extra help in the patch is needed as our church sponsors the Charge Conference (3-6). - Movie night in the patch is October 24 - Trunk or Treat will be held on October 26 - High School service hours can be earned by working in the patch. - The confirmation class is doing well and is scheduled to finish in 2 weeks. There are 4 members. Confirmation Sunday will be scheduled. - Weston announced the schedule for ministry presentations. September 28: Women in Faith and United Methodist Men October 5: Nurture and Outreach and Witness October 12: Small groups and Sunday School
United Methodist Men	Herb Hilmer - Herb has submitted his resignation as president. They and requesting names be submitted for his replacement. - The men had a good meeting and discussed projects for the church. - Herb will paint 30 small pumpkins to be sold in the patch.
United Women in Faith	Sylvia Cousin - A District meeting was held at Francis Burns. NEUMC won 5 awards - Due to hosting Outreach and Angel Tree, regular meetings will not be held. - Killingsworth Gala will be held on November 13. Tickets are \$70. Karen gave a donation to cover a table for 7. - NEUMC will be hosting the District meeting on January 10. Our church will provide breakfast before classes are held. New officers will be installed at this meeting.
Administrative Committees	
Finance Committee	James Cook - Met last Wednesday. \$7000 has been pledged toward paying Apportionments. This new pledge along with the \$2000 already given will cover our Apportionments for this year. - Suggestion was made that Apportionments be made a line item on next year's budget. - The 2026 budget will be presented at the next meeting. - Paying off the mortgage is still a major goal. We have a pledge to match donations, and the hope is we will be able to meet the mortgage payoff soon. - The fall campaign will be more one on one, grassroots approach instead of going before the whole congregation with a church wide luncheon.

	• Charlie has more donations to be applied. • The mortgage of \$2800 can be added back into the budget once the mortgage is paid off. • There will be an official service with the Bishop and District Superintendent once the mortgage is paid in full.
SPRC	Bob Shaffner • Pastor Antoinette's annual review is due soon. She is in the final stages of her preparation for applying to the Board of Ordained Ministry. Her work is due on October 3. Her 2 readers have been giving her good feedback as they shepherd her through this process. • Charlie, Bob, and Pat Hoesly are developing the safety plan for our church. Thanks to this committee for the many hours put into developing this plan. This plan will be presented at the November meeting.
Trustees	Mike Munn • An estimate of \$7902 to repair the sidewalk from Canty Company was deemed to be too expensive. The trustees are working to find a better solution. • \$300 was spent to replace broken video equipment. Christopher Wargel has completed the replacement installation. • A special thanks to the Safety committee.
Report of the Pastor	Pastor Antoinette Gaborton-Moss • 12 Birthday cards sent • 8 calls and visits • Please be more aware of congregational needs. As a team member, please take a more active role. • Pastor Antoinette went with Diane Markam to visit and deliver a tee shirt given by the Pairs and Spares class to Sandra Miller at Harmony. • Pastor Antoinette has been asked to participate in 2 speaking engagements. Union UMC on November 22 Journey Church: Participating in an 8 week Bible Study, <u>Sacred Rest</u>, through Zoom. October 15-December 6. On December 6 the study will conclude with a program at our church including Killingsworth women. • Charge conference October 19. The schedule is attached. The Bishop has requested changes be made to the service program. The new order of worship is attached. The church council will be asked to answer questions found on the back of the program sheet. Answers will be sent to Jennifer Wargel. The Bishop also requires the Charge Conference to use Robert's Rules of Order. • Shared nominations made for 2026. Nominees have accepted new positions. (attached) • Apportionments flyer attached. This information will be included in next week's bulletin.
Other Business	• None
Closing Prayer	• Debbo Lackore

Submitted by:
Mary Annee Lockard, Recording Secretary

2025 Charge Conferences
Columbia District

Date	Time	Church	Location of CC	Presiding Elder
October 12	3:00pm	Asbury UMC	Asbury UMC	Rev. James Grubb
	3:45pm	Bluff Road UMC	Asbury UMC	Rev. James Grubb
	4:30pm	Mill Creek UMC	Asbury UMC	Rev. James Grubb
	5:15pm	Suber Marshall UMC	Asbury UMC	Rev. James Grubb
October 12	4:00pm	Shiloh UMC/Gilbert	Shiloh UMC/Gilbert	Rev. Fran Elrod
	4:45pm	Gilbert UMC	Shiloh UMC/Gilbert	Rev. Fran Elrod
	5:30pm	Shady Grove UMC/Capers Chapel UMC	Shiloh UMC/Gilbert	Rev. Fran Elrod
October 19	3:00pm	Upper Richland (Beulah UMC/Oak Grove UMC)	Northeast UMC	Rev. Tiffany Knowlin-Boykin
	3:45pm	North Columbia Charge (Mt. Pleasant UMC/St. John's UMC)	Northeast UMC	Rev. Tiffany Knowlin-Boykin
	4:30pm	I DeQuincy Newman UMC	Northeast UMC	Rev. Tiffany Knowlin-Boykin
	5:15pm	Northeast UMC	Northeast UMC	Rev. Tiffany Knowlin-Boykin

Date		Church	Location of CC	Presiding Elder
October 19	3:00pm	Brookland UMC	Platt Springs UMC	Rev. Mollie Reddic
	3:45pm	Cayce UMC	Platt Springs UMC	Rev. Mollie Reddic
	4:30pm	Shiloh UMC/ W. Columbia	Platt Springs UMC	Rev. Mollie Reddic
	5:15pm	Platt Springs UMC	Platt Springs UMC	Rev. Mollie Reddic
October 19	3:00pm	Bethel UMC	Bethel UMC	Rev. Julie Belman
	3:45pm	Whaley St. UMC	Bethel UMC	Rev. Julie Belman
	4:30pm	Heyward St. UMC	Bethel UMC	Rev. Julie Belman
October 19	4:00pm	Columbia UMC	Columbia UMC	Rev. Fran Elrod
	5:30pm	Fair Lawn UMC	Fair Lawn UMC	Rev. Fran Elrod
October 19	2:00pm	Union UMC	Union UMC	Rev. Stephen Taylor
October 26	4:00pm	Faith UMC	Faith UMC	Rev. Hope Avins-Morris
	4:00pm	Francis Burns UMC	Francis Burns UMC	Rev. Geneva Stafford
	4:00pm	Grace UMC	Grace UMC	Rev. Meg Cook
	4:00pm	Journey UMC	Journey UMC	Rev. George Ashford
	4:00pm	Lexington UMC	Lexington UMC	Rev. Mack McDowell

2025 Charge Conference
Sowing Seeds of Possibility

"If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'move from here to there,' and it will be moved; and nothing will be impossible for you." -Matthew 17:20

Call to Worshipful Work

Leader: The Creator has planted seeds within each of us, seeds of hope, creativity, potential and possibility.

People: **May these seeds be nurtured, cultivating good deeds and loving-kindness in the world.**

All: **Lord you call us to be Sowers of possibilities, casting forth hope, even amidst uncertainty.**

HYMN

Hymn of Promise

UMHymnal #707
Verses 1&2

Prayer

Spirit of the Living God, be the Gardener of our souls. For so long we have been waiting, silent and still—experiencing a winter of the soul. But now in the strong name of Jesus Christ, we dare to ask: Clear away the dead growth of the past. Break up the hard clods of custom and routine. Stir in the rich compost of vision and challenge. Bury deep in our souls the implanted Word. Cultivate and water and tend our hearts until new life buds and opens and flowers. Amen.

-Richard Foster

Word From Bishop Fairley

Video

Worshipful Work

- I. Composite Report from Church Council
 1. Where have you sowed seeds of possibilities?
 2. What Holy Risks have you taken?
 3. Where do you see God's harvest field for your church?
 4. What ministries and missions have you planted?
- II. Pastor's Report
 1. How as the chief Gardner of the flock have you cultivated the atmosphere where healthy and effective leaders can dream dreams and see visions?
 2. Where have you taken holy risk and planted seeds of positivity?
 3. Where do you see the greatest harvest in this community?
 4. Share where you see the church living into its calling in 2025-2026.
- III. Report From The Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development
- IV. Ministerial Support
- V. Accountable Reimbursement Form
- VI. Review of Parsonage Form
- VII. Sowing the Seeds of Call
 1. Recommendation for Ordination
 2. Continuations of persons for licensed or ordained ministry
- VIII. Lay Servant Request
- IX. 100% Apportionment Certificate
- X. District Lay Leader Report

HYMN

Here I am, Lord

UMHymnal #593

Closing Remarks & Prayer

Adjourn Charge Conference

2026 CHURCH COUNCIL LEADERSHIP NOMINEES

Committee or Position	Current Officer(s)	Name of individual(s) who accepted nominations
Council Chair	Jennifer Wargel (2027)	N/A
SPRC	Bob Shaffner (2025) Elizabeth Chamblee (2025) Charlie Henry (2025) Barry Sloop (2026) Stephen Crowell (2026) Sharon Shealy (2027) Kristen Miro (2027)	Forrest Horn - (2028) Karen Evans (2028) Sylvia Cousin (2028)
Board of Trustees (Elections Jan 2026)	Michael Munn (2026) Pat Christiansen (2026) Christopher Wargel (2026) Pat Hoesly (2027) Ryan Miro (2027) Anthony Pizzello (2028)	Mary Mason (2028) Greg Haffner (2028)
Finance Chair	James Cook (2026)	N/A
Treasurer	Charlie Henry (2027)	N/A
Lay Leader to Annual Conference	Jane DeCristofaro (2026)	N/A
Lay Leaders	Stephen Crowell (2026) Jane Scott (2026) Larry Griner (2027)	N/A
Recording Secretary	Mary Ann Lockard (2027)	N/A
Nominations & Leadership	Weston Cheatham (2025) Chastity Cherubin (2025) Sharon Shealy (2026) Sarah Williamson (2027) Bill Hoesly (2027) (Ex-officio Lay Leaders)	Heather Cook (2028) Nikki Shaffner (2028)
Stewardship Chairperson	Debbie Hoesley (2027)	N/A
Nurture	Debbo Lackore (2027)	N/A
Outreach and Witness Chairperson	Gaye Christmus (2027)	N/A
Small Groups Coordinator	Jane DeCristofaro (2027)	N/A
United Women in Faith	Sylvia Cousin	N/A
United Methodist Men	Herb Hillmer (President: Aug 12 - Sep 8, 2025)	TBA

sowing to the spirit

Galatians 6:8



how apportionment giving
connects us and sustains us

how apportionments are calculated

Apportionments are calculated from Statistical Table 2 for each church in the conference. These amounts are collected in January. We refer to the total of the selected lines as "Net Funds." They include:



Total base compensation paid to the pastor, associate pastors and deacons (Table 2, Line 41)



Total paid to/for pastor, associates and deacons for housing & utilities and/or housing in lieu of parsonage, and for accountable reimbursements and other non-accountable cash allowances (Table 2, Lines 42-44)



Total paid in salary and benefits for all other church staff, including diaconal ministers (Table 2, Line 45)



Total spent for local church programs and other operating expenses (Table 2, Lines 46-47)



Conference-calculated adjustments for housing in lieu of parsonage and equitable compensation



Net funds for the year

Important points

- The placing of actual expenses on Table 2 is very important
- An expense should only be reported once on Table 2
- Church spending on capital additions/improvements, debt repayments, direct billing and missions does not factor into the apportionment calculation if reported on the correct lines (i.e. not on lines above)
- Membership is not considered when calculating apportionments
- Once apportionments are set, they cannot be changed. Apportionments are set shortly before they are published.

HOW APPORTIONMENTS ARE CALCULATED

My church's average net funds

Sum of all churches' average net funds



Conference budget



My church's apportionment

Once these are added for each church, we allocate apportionments based on a weighted two-year average. So the 2024 apportionment calculation will be calculated with an average based on the amounts reported in 2022 and 2021.

For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.
— Galatians 6:8

where our apportionments go



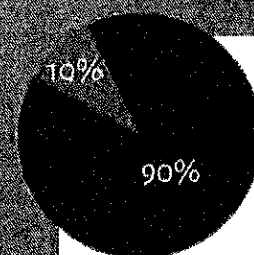
Here in the South Carolina Conference – at the local church, district and conference levels – we are constantly seeking a more excellent way to become better equipped for ministry in the midst of the changing realities of our culture.

We know that we can do so much more together as The United Methodist Church than we could ever do as individuals or congregations. When we consolidate our resources through apportionments, we share our gifts in a way that makes real what would otherwise be impossible.

Through this connectional giving, we respond to disasters near and far. We support young people through United Methodist colleges, campus ministries and Africa University. We support the global Abundant Health initiative that seeks to impact the lives of children around the world so they might claim Jesus' promise of abundant life.

This kingdom-building work is why we pledge to support the church's ministry through our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. We commit ourselves to being the hands and feet of Jesus.

apportionment giving = tithing



Apportionments as percent of church annual budget revenue
Represents 2024 apportionment budget (\$13.9m) as a percentage of 2022 amounts received by local churches (\$137.2m) for their operating budget. Separated churches not included.

We make disciples, train leaders, and create new places for new people. We address the needs of children and those who live in poverty.

It is good to remember that the point of our apportionment giving is never the money. It is about faithfully sharing in being a part of the Body of Christ – doing Christ's work.

For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.
— Galatians 6:8

connectional giving

makes a difference

South Carolina Conference

Conference Benevolences

\$2,339,964 (2023) | \$2,083,451 (2024)

Nurture and outreach arm of our Annual Conference. Largest portion supports congregational specialists and the administration and programs of Connectional Ministries, as well as the Board of Ordained Ministry, Archives and History, Cabinet emergency fund, the South Carolina United Methodist Advocate and the Episcopal residence.

Retiree Health/Transition/Contingency

\$800,000 (2023) | \$200,000 (2024)

Provides subsidy for health insurance premiums for retired clergy, and grant funds for those in significant transitions, such as disability.

District Superintendent Compensation

\$1,292,176 (2023) | \$1,292,176 (2024)

Provides salary of \$107,681 for each of the 12 superintendents.

Equitable Compensation Fund

\$565,000 (2023) | \$365,000 (2024)

Helps pay salaries of pastors serving churches that are not able to meet the minimum standards set by the Annual Conference. Also provides primary support for new church start pastors.

District Administration

\$821,822 (2023) | \$746,822 (2024)

Provides for district office operations, secretary's salary, District Connectional Ministries, institutional share of the superintendent's pension and insurance, continuing education and travel.

Conference Administration

\$1,647,514 (2023) | \$1,435,814 (2024)

Covers expenses of the Annual Conference session, the Journal, conference secretary, treasurer's office, clergy services coordinator, other administrative expenses.

Congregational Development

\$955,708 (2023) | \$855,000 (2024)

Assists in the purchase of land for new church sites, helps newly organized churches and assists in revitalization programs for existing churches.

Campus Ministry

\$672,729 (2023) | \$600,000 (2024)

Supports full-time campus ministries in Charleston, Clemson, Columbia, Greenville, Orangeburg and Rock Hill, and part-time ministers in Florence and Greenwood.

General & Jurisdictional

World Service

\$2,176,172 (2023) | \$1,849,746 (2024)

Lifeline of our connection. Supports the programs, resources and materials of the general boards and agencies at home and around the world.

Episcopal Fund

\$644,453 (2023) | \$547,785 (2024)

Funds our share of support for all active and retired bishops (salary, housing, travel, pensions, office expenses).

General Conference Administration

\$258,403 (2023) | \$219,643 (2024)

Covers expenses of the General Conference, Judicial Council, other General Church administrative agencies.

Ministerial Education

\$735,010 (2023) | \$624,759 (2024)

75% of receipts support United Methodist seminaries and 25% remains in South Carolina for scholarships and grants to seminary students.

Interdenominational Cooperation Fund

\$57,483 (2023) | \$48,861 (2024)

Supports church activities in mission with other Christian communions (the World and National Councils of Churches and the Consultation on Church Union).

Black College Fund

\$293,189 (2023) | \$249,211 (2024)

Support for 10 historically black United Methodist colleges (including Claflin University) and one medical school in the United States.

Africa University Fund

\$65,614 (2023) | \$55,772 (2024)

Continues development of the United Methodist university in Zimbabwe.

Jurisdiction Mission/Ministry

\$29,328 (2023) | \$29,328 (2024)

Covers expenses of Jurisdictional Conference, missions, programs and administration of the SEJ.

Conference Pass-Through to Affiliates

Senior College Scholarships

\$950,000 (2023) | \$850,000 (2024)

Helps provide quality education in a Christian setting for students at Claflin University and Columbia and Wofford colleges; 1/3 of total receipts goes to each institution.

Spartanburg Methodist College

\$588,018 (2023) | \$488,000 (2024)

Support fund for the college, providing academic programs, work-study opportunities and programs for those with special academic needs.

Methodist Homes Resident Assistance

\$400,000 (2023) | \$375,000 (2024)

Supports residents of three retirement communities around the conference

Camps & Retreat Ministries

\$319,800 (2023) | \$284,000 (2024)

Provides for the development, operations and maintenance of facilities operated by South Carolina Camps & Retreat Ministries across the conference.

What is connectional giving?

The main way United Methodists support the ministries of the church is through our apportioned funds, a method of giving that proportionally allocates the church-wide budget to conferences and local churches.

A PDF version of this publication can be downloaded at umcsc.org/treasurer.