Community United Methodist Church
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
September 10, 2025

Members Attending: Evie Burke, Nate Burke, Sarah Cline, Sharon deWaard, Rich Fleming, Sally Hines, Emily Les, Mary Catherine Long, Deacon Sharon Rice, Pat Steinhaus, Pastor Jacob Tipitansig-Wolverton, Amanda Zigterman., Zach Zigternan
Visitors: Bob Baker, Al Brunsting, Nancy Dummer

Deacon Sharon Rice opened the meeting with a devotion at 7:00 pm. Chair Rich Fleming invited the members to share "God Up Moments."

MINUTES: The minutes for the July 9th meeting were approved.

FINANCE: Finance Chair Sharon deWaard said a quick review of the July numbers shows we are where we planned to be financially at this time of year. Our total receipts are $2,600 below budget which is a variance of 0.5% and our total expenditures are $9,200 below budget, a 2.2% variance. Our net as of July 31, 2025 is $6,550 ahead of budget which is 11.6% ahead. We are in a positive cash position which calculates out to be 4.4 months of coverage. Our mortgage is currently at $74,917. Our biggest liability is the temporarily restricted funds currently at $433,069. Transforming for Tomorrow funds amount to $302.967 of the total restricted funds. Carol Craig continues to remit restricted funds to the appropriate organizations as necessary.

TRUSTEES: Nate Burke said there have been several very good workdays and a lot of painting has been done. He then gave a breakdown of the HVAC numbers to the church council. The Advanced Geothermal Bid is for $1,492,720. The electric work for the project will cost $122,005. The core project total is $1,614,725. Extra items for the project not included in the bids for geothermal and electric work include $25,000 for certified engineering drawings, $6,000 for repairing the roof after the removal of RTU units, $30,000 for replacement of the parking lot after the Geofield installation, $20,000 for internal carpentry and painting and $5,000 for landscape repair coming to a total of $86,000. The total for the full project from received bids and best estimates is $1,700,725. If we receive the 40% tax rebate that would bring the total adjusted cost to $1,020,435.

In a special Trustees meeting on July 22, 2025 the Trustees approved moving forward with this information however the Trustees voted there should be a 30% contingency added to the total cost, so their official motion is for $2,210,942. The Trustees would like to make it clear that they do not expect the total to be this price, but they would be remiss if they did not plan for a contingency. The Trustees' vote was not unanimous. Nate added that the bidder said he expected the cost could increase by 5% at the most. Nate also reported that Advanced Geothermal is confident their bid of $1,492,720 is accurate and our geothermal consultant does not expect any change to the not for profit 40% tax rebate as a result of the latest legislation. A question was asked about the experience of the other churches that have installed geothermal and neither church had an increase of 30%.

Pastor Jacob clarified that the Church Council's job was not to vote on the cost but to vote on the financing of the project. There will be a special church conference to consider the project.

The goal of the capital campaign was $1,800,000 and we have a total of $1,400,000 in pledges and other funds. The loan will cover the deficit. There was a discussion about whether we could complete the work by the end of this year, how long it would take to get permits, whether any of our partners have participated, and what we would do for heating this year if it doesn't pass.

Motion: Pastor Jacob moved that the Church Council approve securing a line of credit for up to $1,000,000. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

This motion will go to the conference in December and has been vetted through the Bishop's office which has recommended we check with Wesleyan Impact Partners as a source for the line of credit because their rate may be lower than Wintrust.

CONFERENCE DATE: It was agreed that an all church conference should be held on Sunday, Sept. 28th at 12 noon.

SPRC: Zach Zigterman said the committee will be starting work on the budget.

FOUNDATION: George Groves reported that the foundation has had one bequest since February and has made $6,133 in interest this year so far. There is a fund with money for bonuses for staff. Brad Donaldson will be joining the foundation as Assistant Treasurer next year. The foundation needs one other person.

FAITH FORMATION: Emily Les reported that Sunday school classes have started up again for the school year. Confirmation has 6 students this year. There will be an All-church game night on Oct. 4th. We will hold a neighborhood trunk or treat on Oct. 25th from 1 – 3 pm. with Wesley, Guidepost Montessori and hopefully 1st Congregational and Youth Outlook.

OUTREACH: Amanda Zigterman reported for the Diversity committee that Naper Pride will be on Saturday Sept. 13 and volunteers are needed. Members are attending various training sessions on how to deal with ICE issues. Nov. 20 will be a Trans Day of Remembrance. The Hunger Commission went to Feed My Starving Children on Aug. 12. Loaves & Fishes received 432 lbs. of food from the food drive. The Crop Walk will be Oct. 19th. A drive thru food drive will be held on Nov. 2nd and the Heifer Project will return in December. The Marketing team completed the new website and flyers for Center Street Closet. There was great participation in serving the dinner for PADS and it was well received. A Mission Fair was held on Aug. 31st. Backpacks and school supplies were given to Kids Above All. Funds were given to 7 different mission projects. There will be a PADS bowling event on Sept. 27.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE: Pat Steinhaus reported that she and Evie Burke, Rich Fleming, and Dale Zimmerman attended on June 9th through the 11th The conference opened with a presentation designed to acknowledge and honor the indigenous nations which occupied the land where the conference center now stands. The indigenous nations were named, and our shared history and culture was acknowledged. The Bishop followed with a review of the United Methodist Church's Vision which is to "Love Boldly,Serve Joyfully, and live Courageously". The most important facts to take away from the conference are:

- A balanced NIC budget was passed which Conference leaders acknowledged, despite the sharing of leadership and the resulting expansion of the bishop's responsibilities, has remained flat across 2025-2026.
- Included in that budget was a revision of the apportionment formula which reduces the CUMC apportionment to 10%.
- Constitutional amendments proposed by the general conference were approved.
- Pastor Jacob was commissioned for the work of an elder.
- Three groups which formerly functioned as work groups or task forces became full-fledged conference committees: They are the Committee on Inclusion, the Committee on Equitable Compensation and the Creation Care Committee.

THANK YOU: Rich Fleming thanked Nate Burke and Al Brunsting for the hours of work they put in on the HVAC project.

DEACON SHARON: Kids Above All is having an event on Sept. 18th at 10 am and everyone is invited to come and/or volunteer.

PASTOR JACOB: The reduction in apportionment is going from 14% to 16% down to 10% which will be very helpful for us. The vision for the overall Methodist church is stated as “Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully and Lead Courageously”. Instead of spending time on meetings to develop a new mission, vision or values for our church we need to focus on the goals as stated in that phrase and talk about how we do all these things. For the past two months we have been talking about how a possible new governance model would reduce the time volunteers spend in meetings and enable our church to accomplish more with a better decision-making process. We will be holding 4 town hall meetings to explain this model and talk about how it is working in other churches that have adopted it. This past summer we did an experiment with the contemporary service being held with round tables in Fellowship Hall. The round tables provided opportunities for relationship building and better communication. In addition, we learned things about the sound equipment and live streaming. We will be evaluating the pros and cons of both spaces. We are learning from the new website that more people are interested in asking questions and we need to find a way to put something on the website that answers those questions.

Pastor Jacob closed the meeting with a prayer at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Hines
Recording Secretary