Community UMC

Church Council Minutes

March 11, 2026

Present: Rich Fleming, Pastor Jacob Tipantasig-Wolverton, Evie Burke, Dale Zimmerman, George Groves, Pat Steinhaus, Deacon Sharon Rice, Mark Norman, Katie Lapham, Amanda Zigterman, Emily Les

- **Devotional: Deacon Sharon**
  - How do we interact with people on Sundays?
    - Coffee
    - Welcome Center- see 11am come in
    - Help people, direct; Smile
    - Interactions the moment we walk in
  - Recent Webinar regarding serving and welcoming
    - Doing the little things on Sunday mornings is service
  - How can we take little moments and make new and lifelong members feel welcome?
- **Opening prayer: Deacon Sharon**
- **God Up Moments**
  - Birth of Scarlet Catherine Fleming, Rich's first grandchild
  - Community members caring for one another
  - Feed the Need
  - George asked youth member to pick seeds for seed drive
  - Dale saw Jim Stein and daughter
  - Pastor Jacob visited Gail
  - Pat Steinhaus received flowers and card for her birthday
- **Approval of Nov 12, 2025 minutes**
  - No changes
  - Motion to approve: Pat Steinhaus
    - Second: George Groves
    - Unanimous approval
- **Finance: George Groves**
  - Finance meets every other month; welcome to attend
  - End of Year Budget 2025
    - $713,808 total revenue
    - $716,520 total expenses
    - ($2,712) net; .3%
      - Appreciation for Sharon DeWaard and Carol Craig
      - Installed windows out of surplus funds, which increased expenses
    - Motion to approve 2025 Budget report: Katie Lapham
      - Second: Dale Zimmerman
      - Unanimous approval
  - 2026 Budget approved at charge conference
    - $599,000 pledges
    - $30,000 continues via ACH, but not pledged
    - In good shape for 2026
    - January 2026
      - Nothing unexpected

        - Motion to approve Jan. 2026 budget report: Evie Burke
            - Second: Pat Steinhaus
            - Unanimous approval
    - Information Only: Transforming for Tomorrow
        - Made 1 payment on 12/14/25: $226,000
        - 7 payments of that amount and final payment
        - $705,000 cash on hand to pay for this
            - Will need to utilize loan before end of year
            - Question: what is interest rate?
                - Carol Craig would have rate
                - Keeping funds accessible
- **Trustees: Craig Colling (via Rich)**
    - HVAC project challenged by City of Naperville Permitting
        - Examining drilling and proximity to easement with Saints Peter and Paul
        - Send prayers that drilling can resume soon!
    - 3rd floor windows replaced
        - Additional expenses discovered during project
        - May impact ability to complete projects later in the year
    - Recent Workday
        - Cleaned window blinds
        - Prepped for painting in sanctuary
        - Removed tape on 3rd floor
    - Planning spring workday; possible focus on repairs at Sara Lane
- **SPRC: Mark Norman**
    - Current focus: New Director of Traditional Worship
        - Scheduling interviews
        - Hoping to make decision by end of the month
    - Employment Retention Credit (ERC) Fund
        - Proposing use of ERC funds to finance payout of accrued vacation and benefit time earned: $9,662.29
            - ERC Fund received during Covid
            - Fund was moved to Foundation for Staff Bonuses
            - Needs Church Council approval to use funds for another reason
            - Employee handbook indicates that vacation pay is accrued and paid out, but no funds collected for payout
            - If ERC is not used, would need to utilize operating budget
                - Do not have extra $9,662 for this purpose
            - Using ERC will take away funds for staff bonuses in the fall
                - SPRC discussed this and felt it was the better option
            - Unanimous approval by Church Council
        - Pat: How could we think about replenishing that fund in the future?
            - George: additional funds allow more growth
            - Dale: fundraiser of some kind, dinner, etc.
- **Church Foundation: Craig Colling**
    - No report
- **Lay Leader of Education: Emily Les**
    - 4 small groups for Lent Study

        - Praise for this book: clear direction, short and easy to focus on
    - Faith Formation: how do we get more adults involved?
        - Notice the same people in small groups, committees, etc.
        - Utilize One CUMC Sundays: first one Palm Sunday
        - If you hear of other ideas, pass them along
        - If you would like to teach, contact Emily, Deacon Sharon, or Pastor Jacob
    - Easter Egg hunt in Central Park on April 4, 1pm with neighbor churches
    - July 20-24 Creative Arts Camp, 3-6pm
        - Friday, 7/24, 6pm show
- **Lay Leader of Outreach: Nicki Anderson (via Rich)**
    - Diversity:
        - Working with Jayden at North Central College re: supporting immigrant students
            - proposed program for students on April 10
        - Returning to Aurora Pride Parade: June 14, 2026
        - River Glen Presbyterian hosting book discussion of American Teenager, How Trans Kids Are Surviving Hate and Finding Joy in a Turbulent Era lead by author Nico Lang: April 20
            - share the opportunity with our church community.
    - Marketing: No Report.
    - Hunger/Missions:
        - Hunger and Missions are reorganizing/restructuring/refocusing as they combine two teams into one.
        - Current Projects:
            - Seed Drive has started off successfully and will run for six weeks. Partners to receive seeds:
                - Loaves & Fishes- to be used in market
                - Hesed House- for community garden
                - Chicago Housing Authority
                - Consideration to purchase seed display (about 1000 packets for $400).
                    - Allows congregation to donate to cover cost.
                    - Congregation can also bring seeds packets in.
            - Feed the Need was successful, and all volunteer positions filled!
        - Hunger/Missions Committee will be creating a Mission themed area in the Welcome Center this spring- which will include a “Mission Tree”
        - Mission Moments each Sunday is an opportunity to highlight projects and organizations following committee calendar.
- **Katie Lapham: Lay Leader of Worship**
    - Hospitality/Welcoming Committee
        - Well-established, running smoothly
        - Connect weekly with reminder email
        - Also sending weekly reminder emails to Ushers
    - Working on Communion committee
        - Linda Morgan purchases items
        - Suzanne schedules servers
    - Worship Arts
        - Running well; big job

- Praise for welcoming team!!
    - Pastor Jacob: Family returned to Naperville from Chicago
        - Responded to email from CUMC praising hospitality
- Anytime you have extra time, sit in welcome center
- Pastor Jacob: Easter Sunday is a big opportunity to welcome others
    - Greet the people around you that you do not know, then known people
        - Do that with 10 people

- **Deacon Sharon's Remarks**
    - Confirmation student field trip in February
        - Visited different churches/houses of Worship
            - Would like to strengthen those relationships
            - Pastor Sara at St Timothy's Lutheran
                - Potluck event?
- **Pastor's Remarks: Pastor Jacob**
    - Keep reports condensed so we can focus on who we are on where we are going
    - Check email for Discernment Guide
        - Why Church Council Exists
            - Not a management committee
            - Ask "Does what we are doing advance the mission of God through our church?"
    - What is resonating in your heart?
        - George: Bolstering our UMM groups
        - Rich: do more with NCC
            - Pastor Jacob: International student at NCC lost housing for remainder of year
                - $3,500 for room and food for remainder of semester
                - CUMC to cover cost out of Greatest Need/Unhoused Fund, Pastor's Benevolence Fund
            - Can we create endowment fund for international students or CUMC members at NCC?
            - International students left here on holiday breaks
            - What about food insecurities? Clothing insecurities?
                - Max (Chaplain) looking for people to pick up food from Loaves & Fishes and deliver to NCC students
            - How do we create internship opportunities?
                - Using CUMC connections/careers
                - How can we get them experience that helps forward their professional goals?
                - Looking for NCC connections, mentorship?
            - Emily's college experience- had a church family
                - Still in touch with her family
                - Someone to sit with at church
                - Inviting to dinner, care package for finals
            - Keep faculty and staff in mind as well
        - Pat Steinhaus: Expand our vision of diversity
            - School population is more diverse than what we think of as Naperville
                - How do we address that?
                - How does our congregation reflect the community?

                - Have speakers come in
                - Must get to know community first
                - Book studies, multicultural dinners
        - Deacon Sharon: Sense of neighborliness
            - Support each other, work together
            - Break down barriers between congregations, different faiths
        - Pastor Jacob: children and youth facing mental health crisis
            - Crisis transcends race, socio-economic status
            - How can we be a resource to parents and families in the area?
            - Are we being a vital resource to meet needs?
            - Are we being agile? Adapting to the needs of community?
            - Hearing needs, seeing needs, addressing needs
                - Evie: how do we engage/invite them into conversation, but allow them to share as much as they want without discomfort?
                    - Look for opportunities to bring in training
                - Open building to parent support groups
                    - Relationship with Samara Care?
                    - Nami (Wheaton)
                        - Carol Craig is hosting Nami training for parents of LGBTQ+
        - George: how do we add spiritual growth to all these things without being too forceful?
            - People are no longer churched, so Sunday school, small groups, worship, etc. is overwhelming.
            - Build relationship first.
    - Create dialogue with this group: ChurchCouncil@onecumc.net
- **Closing Prayer: Rich Fleming**

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Zigterman