Community UMC
Church Council Minutes
September 9, 2026

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

- **Call Meeting to Order: 7:00pm**
- **Devotional: Deacon Sharon**
    - Hospitality is about making room for another person; room where they are safe, respected, and valued.
    - Welcome because the person bears the image of God, not because we hope to get something from them.
    - Notice the people around you, listen before speaking, be God's welcome.
- **God Up Moments**
    - Gratitude of Community Closet visitor (via 211): Deacon Sharon
    - Visit to Grandma when doing well: Evie Burke
- **Approval of July 15, 2026 minutes**
    - Motion to approve: George Groves
        - Second: Craig Colling
        - Unanimous approval
- **Finance: George Groves**
    - 7/31/26 report; reviewed and approved by finance committee
        - Total Operating Revenue: $467,273
        - Total Expenses: $412,991
        - Net: $54,282
    - Ending Cash (7/31/26): $241,624
    - Budget operating deficit of $8,100
    - Transforming for Tomorrow
        - Pledges: $923,500
        - Received through 8/8/26: $471,850
        - Remaining: $451,700
        - Outstanding Loan Balance: $166,300
            - 7% interest on loan
            - Paying principal as funds received
    - Unanimous approval of report
    - Beatitudes
        - Must be approved through finance committee and church council
        - Recommended by Hunger/Mission:
            - 7 pass-through support funds:
                - Global Missionaries
                - Hesed House
                - Honduras Children's Scholarship
                - Kids Above All
                - Loaves & Fishes
                - SamaraCare

        - PADS
    - 3 discretionary
        - Hunger
        - Unhoused Ministries
        - Greatest Need
  - Pursuing conference award for mission giving in all categories
- **Trustees: Craig Colling**
  - Transforming for Tomorrow
    - Installing; more loops coming on daily
    - Almost ready to repave lot and tuckpoint in the back
      - Will be slightly different near Franklin
    - Ramp had to be removed during construction
      - Undecided on replacement
        - Do plan to put a ramp in somewhere
  - Work Day
    - Sanctuary and classroom preparations
      - 2nd floor all painted
      - 307 flooring
  - Montessori School Lot
    - Pastor Jacob trying to connect about repaving lot
    - Weekend snow removal
- **SPRC: Mark Norman**
  - No report
- **Church Foundation: Craig Colling**
  - Prospectus up 9% YTD
- **Lay Leader of Faith Formation: Emily Les**
  - Creative Arts Camp
    - Fewer students resulted in different format
    - Great experience
  - Sunday School starts 9/13: tour of new spaces
  - Trunk or Treat 10/24 at 2pm
  - Planning Affinity Groups- connect around special interest /hobbies
- **Lay Leader of Outreach: Nicki Anderson**
  - Diversity Outreach
    - Sept 13: Faith in Action Day (Pat S)
      - 12pm-1pm sign making in Fellowship Hall
      - 1pm Begin .9 mile loop to Ellsworth School, Park, back to CUMC
        - Stops for prayer, storytelling, singing
      - A group will stay at CUMC for mobility reasons
      - Conference-wide initiative
        - Upload photos for conference
        - Need to announce a link to share with church office
        - Bracelet to indicate no photo
    - Deacon Sharon: El Paso, IL Project XV museum
      - History of voting rights
      - Day trip- Sat, October 10, 11am arrival
      - Sign up coming soon

- Hunger/Mission
  - Dr. Michael Bradburn, President of SamaraCare visited meeting
  - 437 lbs to Loaves and Fishes
  - 32 Buckets for Midwest Mission
  - 20 flowerpots/cards for homebound CUMC members
  - 120 everyday mission bags
  - 19 filled backpacks, 21 empty bags and 6 boxes of supplies to Kids Above All
  - Upcoming: Crop Walk, October 18
- Community Outreach
  - Introduced Naperville Director of DEI, Dr Geneance Williams to Pastor Jacob
  - Holy Rollers leading fundraising for PADS
    - Bowling event 9/19
  - Presence in Naperville parades? Festivals?
    - How can we have a presence?
      - Give out water?
      - Farmers Market booth
  - Nicki could share upcoming events with team

- **Lay Leader of Worship: Katie Lapham**
  - Appreciation for Evie carrying brunt of hospitality in welcome center
- **Deacon Sharon's Remarks**
  - Thank you for assistance by all while Pastor Jacob was away
- **Additional Announcement**
  - George Groves: UM Men this weekend
  - Would like to have a quarterly men's breakfast
  - Safe Sanctuary training – last Sat of Sept online
    - For those working with vulnerable adults or children
    - Questions to Evie or Deacon Sharon
- **Pastor Jacob's Remarks**
  - Thanks to all for contributing in meaningful ways during absence
  - Thank you for time away
  - Reflecting on hospitality
    - ***How do we become more connected with the community around us?***
  - Being a presence without expecting anything in return
    - Motion from July: visiting people who meet here
      - Who we are, why we are
      - Some groups use building, very concerned about privacy
        - Primary purpose: hospitality
          - Not "use our church, but hoping you will be a part of it."
        - What if we became church who is extraordinarily good at welcoming people?
        - Took turns being in welcome center when events are happening?
          - No pamphlets, materials, etc.
          - Just welcome people
            - Maybe wear CUMC shirt, etc.
            - Do you know where you are going?
            - How can I help?
  - From sermon series, what did we learn?

        - Go out, not wait for people to come in
        - Share about our community at CUMC
    - Relational Outreach
        - ***Who am I intentionally building a relationship with?***
        - Invitation belongs here, not to large group
        - Take upon ourselves- who is my neighbor? Who do I have relationship with that I can invite to join us? Who can I know better? Who can I serve? Who can I invite to an event?
    - Suggest modification to motion from last meeting:
        - Previous statement: The Church Council supports an effort by CUMC members to formally reach out to those organizations, committees and individuals that utilize our building and invite them to worship services or other church activities.
        - Suggested revision: The Church Council supports an effort by CUMC members to intentionally welcome organizations, groups, and individuals who utilize our building through hospitality and presence, while respecting the purpose, privacy, and boundaries of those groups. Council and CUMC members are encouraged to model this hospitality through regular presence at the Welcome Center and to model relational outreach by intentionally building relationships with friends, neighbors, colleagues, and others in their everyday lives, allowing invitations to worship, service, fellowship, or other church activities to grow naturally from those relationships.
            - Motion: George
                - Second: Rich
                - Unanimous approval
    - Discussion:
        - Evie- helpful to distinguish between church-sponsored group and outside group using space
            - What are next steps?
        - Intentional sign-up sheet for welcome center
            - Who is responsible?
                - Hospitality? Outreach?
                - Could we get a system in place with office staff?
                    - Then someone else maintain?
        - Deacon Sharon: Grace UMC does this, very effective
        - George: a great way to get more people involved
        - Amanda: Instructions for volunteers
            - Access to trash bags, paper towel, plunger, toilet paper, paper, pen
            - What to do in certain situations?
                - Maintenance requests?
                - Phone Numbers?
            - Send other ideas to Pastor Jacob
        - Where would this live?
            - Would live in Council minutes and upcoming newsletter
        - Only for Church Council?
            - Council and CUMC members?
    - Stewardship Season coming up end of September
        - Carol Craig will be requesting budgeting requests for 2027
            - Build budget off of actual expenses

        - Tuesday, October 13, 7pm
            - Church Conference is early, so will not have budget for church conference
                - Church council will approve budget
- **Next meeting:** Wednesday, November 11th at 7pm
    - Communicate with Council by email: ChurchCouncil@onecumc.net
- **Closing Prayer: Pastor Jacob**
- **Meeting close:** 8:22pm

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Zigterman