



United Methodist Church of Danbury

Church Administrative Council

Minutes

July 23, 2024

Council members and guests present: Penny McKown - Chair, Pastor J. Michael Cobb, Tonya Clark, Loren Euvrard, Marti Foster, Bishop Rouse, Val Stagen, Sue Teer, Carrie Tesbir, Lorena Tesbir, Myra Tesbir, Phyllis Tranzillo.

Council members contributing by e-mail, text message, or other means: Karlene Lombardo.

Council members not present: Val Bose, Audrey Cain, Dr. Lucinda Johnson.

The meeting was called to order a little late around 6:45 PM. The start was delayed due to technical difficulties and the late arrival of the Pastor.

Opening Prayer and Devotional – Penny offered “A Scottish Blessing of Light” as the opening prayer. She talked about her vision problems after undergoing cataract surgeries and how Isaiah 41:10 helped get her through the rough times. She had taken the Spiritual Gifts assessment and her gift was FAITH. She listened a lot to a Scottish musician, Dougie MacLean. After her third surgery she could see much more clearly. She traveled to Scotland with her family and friends and was able to see Dougie live in concert. She is very grateful for God’s loving and steadfast care of her. She showed some pictures from her trip.

- **Introductory Remarks & Pastor’s Report** –

- There is a lot going on. There is only one month until VBS (Vacation Bible School.)
- Penny and the Pastor will lead a Worship Service based on the Annual Conference on September 15, 2024.
- In the future, Bishop Bickerton will lead two Conferences which will be combined. This is symbolic of cost cutting measures. Apportionments should go down 45% starting in 2026, as 2025’s budget was already approved. The formula for calculating apportionments was explained. Marti noted that he distributed a breakdown of the components of our estimated apportionment responsibility for 2025.
- The Pastor called attention to the message on his shirt and said that “Just Love” works on issues for supporting each other including women’s issues, LGBTQ issues, etc.
- Delegates at the General Conference were given LEGO’s by Michael. Different people worked on different projects with the LEGO’s. This is an example of people from many different groups working together to build something, even though at different times.
- The VBS is being done with the Spanish Speaking church in our building and with New Life Church in Fairfield.
- The Pastor thinks the Appalachian Service Project (ASP) can be resurrected in collaboration with our Cooperative Parish Council, but in future years, (not this year.)
- This coming Sunday, Michael will be preaching on loaves and fish.
- Work was completed on the Parsonage, including the cellar and the roof.
- We received and deposited a check from the Insurance Company for over \$56,000.00 to replace the carpet in the sanctuary. The “carpet fund” already in progress can be used to help replace the floor in the “children’s room.”
- If there is a gap between the carpet contractor’s estimate and the amount of the check we would consider asking the insurance company for more money.
- When the carpet is replaced, some pews could be left out in order to create a children’s area in the back of the sanctuary to be used during worship.
- The Pastor is considering another get-together at the parsonage.
- The Pastor said a lot of people have done a lot of hard work and thanked some of them by name.

Part One - Ministries Of Nurture, Outreach, And Witness:

- **Ministries Already In Place:**
 - **Patti's Closet** – Phyllis said there was a glitch with running at ARC but we will be going back there starting next month. Many of the clothing racks were replaced with new ones.
 - **Mission and Outreach** – Michael said we do a lot and these things bring us joy. We need to be careful how we do things. Phyllis is now focusing on Patti's Closet but will do a couple of backpacks for the back-to-school effort.
 - **UWF** – Karlene asked Penny to share UWF's status. The Book Club is going strong and meets monthly with 8 to 11 participants. In November, they will resume meeting at Karlene's house.
 - **Church Visitation** – Val Stagen reported later in the meeting.
- **Ministries in Progress:**
 - **Targeted Outreach** –
 1. Lorena said VBS plans are coming together. She and Andrea have reclaimed the "VBS closet" and are working on it.
 2. A bilingual Christmas pageant, in conjunction with another church would be fun.
 3. Safe Sanctuary training will include training about protection of not only children but also seniors and people with other challenges.
 4. After VBS, Lorena will start to plan for our September homecoming.
 5. Michael said it exciting to be a part of this church. We are figuring out God's will. We will reach out to community organizations and find out what they need.
 6. Michael talked about his wife's organization, Ann's Place, and showed an image related to children. He hopes that when children and their parents come to our Church, they will see a more attractive narthex and a children's area in the Sanctuary. He talked about a holistic approach to what a newcomer with children sees.
 - **Trustees Report on Issues Relating to Targeted Outreach** – Phyllis talked about making the Church entrance more attractive. Maybe move the plaques (except those with the history of Pastors who served here) to the Chapel downstairs and repaint the narthex. The glass case in the narthex would not be moved.
 - **Welcome and Evangelism:** Lucinda has been doing a good job of greeting and tracking down new people. Michael said that if any of us notice new people, we should make them feel welcome and let him know about them. A welcome pamphlet was mentioned.
 - **How to Find UMCD on Google** – The Pastor gave a demo and encouraged us to leave positive reviews on Google. We also have a presence on Facebook, the Nextdoor app and Instagram.
 - **Membership** – No report.
- **Future Ministries:**
 - **Nominations and Development & Spiritual Gifts Assessment** – Michael wants to bring new people into leadership roles. The Spiritual Gifts Assessment can help with determining who can fill some roles. (There is a clickable link to it in the agenda.) It is useful in helping disciples to grow.
 - **Suggestions from our Church Family** – Some roles are confusing and need to be demystified. Penny suggested that having a job fair would help people to understand what is involved in the various roles.
- **Connectional/Cooperative Parish Opportunities:**
 - The Cooperative Parish Council could help us with VBS. Michael, Audrey Cain, and Phyllis Tranzillo are members of the Council.
- **Educational Opportunities: Suggestions to Meet People's Needs:**
 - **Good Enough Summer Study and Fall Book Study (Summer Reading)** – The author of Good Enough is Kate Bowler. Michael will propose a Summer Reading list that he thinks will be of interest to us. He is thinking about doing a book study of Romans in the Fall. He said "What do we want to be in a church?"
 - **Lay Servant/Speaker Classes** – Some are very interesting. Penny is monitoring them. She will send an email to Bill Florin for more information about the latest selection of classes.
 - **General Conference Presentation with Dinner** – This event was cancelled.
- **Worship:**

- **Music and Worship** – Bishop asked for feedback on the Service that was held outdoors. It was suggested that outdoor collections be taken using a box rather than an open plate where money could blow away. The service was streamed to Facebook and Michael will copy it to YouTube.
- **Altar Guild** – No Report.

Part Two: Administrative and Supportive Responsibilities of the Church:

- **Accepting or Amending of Minutes From Last Meeting** - The draft June 2024 minutes were presented before the meeting. Marti made a motion to accept them as written and Loren seconded. Passed unanimously. Marti will ask Andrea to post the updated minutes on the Church Council bulletin board.
- **Fundraising/Fellowship Events** –
 - **Lunch Gatherings** - Val Stagen will organize lunches at area restaurants, for a fixed price, with a maximum of 20 people attending. The lunches would be held on Wednesdays. She is thinking of Whitlock's in Bethel, <https://www.whitlocks-bethel.com>.
 - **Church Kitchen Cleanup** – This will be held on July 25. Among the tasks will be cleaning the closets out, washing them down, washing the dishes, and storing them in the cleaned closets.
 - **New Fairfield August Barbecue** – This is a quote from an email sent by Pastor Robb. “We are going to have a summer celebration on Saturday, August 24th from Noon through Evening featuring live music by a number of musicians including a local band called “Split Decision.” Food will include a Pig Roast, Roasted Chicken, Hamburgers and Hot Dogs, homemade salads and desserts. All are welcome. The event is free, but contributions will be happily received!”
 - **Tag Sale August 10** – Sue Teer placed an ad in the newspaper yesterday. Sue will be on site to receive donations. Donated items will be stored behind the screen downstairs. Since the Chapel renters have left, she plans to use the Green Room as a “dollar room.”
 - **Pumpkin Festival – October 5** – An organizational meeting will be held on August 18 by Zoom. (Note: This date was changed to TBD after the meeting.)
 - **Baking Pies for the Danbury Farmer’s Market** – This will be addressed in the future, not this year.
- **Committee Reports – Financial Stewardship:**
 - **Stewardship** – Myra said the stewardship drive will be held on November 24. She is looking to expand the meaning of stewardship. Maybe people are not aware of the community themes involved. Maybe babysitting could be considered.
 - **Finance and Treasurer**– Marti referred to the Finance Committee meeting that was held last night. There was a lot of talk about apportionments.
 - **Financial Secretary** – No report given.
- **Committee Reports – Buildings And Property Stewardship:**
 - **Trustees** – Phyllis said we had to have a Level 2 review since we failed the water purity testing twice. The well cap and filtering system will be addressed on July 31.
 - **Contingency Planning** – Marti talked about the previously distributed “Resources” excerpt from the DRAFT Contingency Plan. It was approved unanimously by voice vote. Marti asked for a volunteer to address the Action Item concerning an alternate location for church services in case of extended unavailability of our building or access to it. Nobody volunteered. The issue was not pursued due to lack of time.
- **Committee Reports – SPR** – Loren said we are still looking for a new Music Director.
- **Other Announcements** – None.
- **Closing prayer** – Given by Pastor Cobb.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 PM.

The next meeting's date is TBD.

Respectfully submitted,



Marti Foster