

# Church Council Report

NEUMC Charge Conference

October 27, 2022

As Northeast United Methodist Church continues to recover from all the challenges we have encountered in the past few years, we have done a great job developing and improving the various Ministries our church provides to the community. I went through the minutes from this year's Church Council Meetings to attempt to capture some of the ways the folks in our church have been doing God's work.

## Specialized Ministries

Sunday School for Children started back up early in the year and the Youth joined, later in the year. We had a prayer walk on Palm Sunday and members participated in a Prayer Vigil before Easter. On Easter, there was a breakfast and an egg hunt. Vacation Bible School was a super success. We had more than enough volunteers to bring a good program to the kids. Backpacks were blessed after school started and animals were blessed after the Pumpkin Patch opened. There was a Prayer Walk around the NEUMC campus in September and the Prayer Team started sending devotionals to the congregation to help them prepare for the lesson on Sunday.

## Outreach and Witness

The Easter Egg hunt was advertised to the community using door hangers, Easter Eggs full of prizes were delivered to nearby families, and there was a nice Easter Egg Hunt after the service. A lot of supplies were given to teachers in our congregation during the Teacher/Classroom supply drive. During the year, folks met to make knot blankets, prayer shawls, crochet hearts, caps and scarves all to be given out to those that can best use them in the community. The Blessing Box was proposed, installed, promoted, improved and even adopted. It is a joint venture among a couple of our Ministry areas. NEUMC partnered with Sandlapper Elementary in a Backpack Program that provides weekend meals to 10-15 kids in need. MOPS (Mothers Of Preschoolers) returned to NEUMC and meets twice a month. The first meeting was small, but they have plans to grow. New Children's Bags were made and stocked for kids to use during the services and Welcome Bags are being developed to give to visitors.

## Worship Team and Lay Leaders

These teams have been working hard all year to plan great music and services. They filled in when Pastor Robin was unavailable and continue to work together to provide meaningful experiences each Sunday.

## Youth Group

Weston did a great job for almost two years as the "Interim" Youth Director. They took holiday and summer breaks, but the group still met regularly. The Youth provided a nice Good Friday service, as usual. Meagan Landers started as Youth Director in September, and they are starting to make the transition. The Pumpkin Patch is currently going strong with a lot of help from all the Church members. Folks from the community were also recruited to help unload the Pumpkin Trucks and we have had Girl Scouts staffing the Patch multiple times!

## Finance

This year, giving has been higher than pledged. That means that the deficit is lower than expected. We still struggle with Cash Flow and move money from the money market account to the operating account, as needed to meet expenses. The Youth Group account was moved under the church account and is still being tracked separately. The Youth voted to pay for at least ½ of the salary of the Youth Director from their account.

## SPRC (Staff-Parish Relations Committee)

In March, it was announced that Pastor Robin would be leaving us for Rock Hill and Pastor Antoinette would be joining us mid-year. We had a farewell celebration for Robin and a welcome celebration for Antionette and her family. The SPRC started looking for a Youth Director early in the year and made it a priority. After a lot of advertising, suggestions, and promotion, help from church members and Pastor Antionette and others, we were finally able to hire Meagan Landers to fill the role in September. The SPRC and Pastor Antionette had Listening Sessions with members to hear about our hopes and dreams for the church. Pastor Antionette has been doing a lot of communication with church members in need and visitors. She has also been collaborating/training with other pastors to find great things for the church. I can't possibly summarize all the great things she is doing.

## Trustees

The AC units throughout the church campus have been acting up and causing problems (and costing money) for the Trustees all year. Gil was able to do some wrangling with the temperature settings to bring down the power bill. A total of \$27,000 has been donated over the past 12 months and they were able to replace two AC units and make repairs to others to keep them working. They have applied for an American Rescue Plan Grant to replace all of the HVAC units in the Education Building. We won't know if we will get awarded any of that Grant until late December. The walks throughout the campus have been cleaned and they are working on the drainage issue in front of the Education building. The Trustees have been doing a lot for the Blessings Box even adding lights and solar powered cooling fans as well as doing more to attract folks to the Box! Gil was able to find someone to fix the projector, so it did not have to be replaced. He also put owls by the doors to keep birds away. Though the Methodist Church has decided to distance itself from the Boy Scouts of America, NEUMC still wants to provide space and as much support as possible to all scouting programs. The relationship will change from ownership of a BSA Scouting Unit to a Facility Use Agreement, like we have with other organizations that use NEUMC facilities.

We may not have a large congregation, but we are growing slowly and have a lot of great folks working to be God's hands and feet in our church and community working through these wonderful Ministries.

Ryon Miro  
Church Council Chair  
Northeast United Methodist Church