

The Congregational Church of Laconia, UCC  
Minutes of Council  
May 21, 2025

Attending: Kathy Giovanni, Moderator, Hollis Thompson, Treasurer & Parish Activities (Zoom), John Walker, Recording Clerk, Bob Hunt, P&F, Marilyn Lynch, Diaconate, Brad Geltz, Outreach, Martha Clement, Ed Min., Wayne Domin, At Large (Zoom), Beth Shehadi, At Large, Andy Giovanni, At-Large.

Absent: Janet Simmon, Worship & Music, written report submitted, Eliza Tweedy, Pastor, written report submitted.

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 PM.

Wayne opened us in prayer with passages from Psalm 8.

Guest: Brad Geltz briefed Council regarding the upcoming Season #15 of Got Lunch! Laconia, initially with thanks to the church for allowing the program to host from our Church Hall.

- 10 weeks planned every Monday from 6/23 to 8/26.
- Set-up of the Church Hall every Thursday or Friday
- Coffee Hour will be outside, except during inclement weather on the bridge.
- 250 families to date
- 18 2-person delivery teams
- Season dedicated to the Children's Auction, financial supporters since year 1.
- There is a fund-raising concert at LHS Friday 23 May, 7 PM.

Minutes: Approved for April 2024

Treasurer's Report:

- Reports remain in flux as a new system of reporting is being developed by P&F. Hollis' knee injury also impacted the report. Several questions were partially answered and a promise made that the next month's report will have a 5-month comparative aspect to it resulting in a more accurate report that can be discussed.
- We are ahead on pledges, behind in endowment distributions.

Pastor's Report:

- Submitted in writing as Eliza was away.
- Martha made a request that the Pastor brief the Congregation on any deaths the past week amongst members, early in her opening remarks during Sunday services.

Thoughts from the Moderator:

- Led discussions from the floor regarding Pulpit Supply duties and Diaconate sharing Communion duties.
- Lengthy discussion of why office hours are limited
  - Carolyn, 4-days per week
  - Carmen is limited to 12 hours per week due to Social Security restrictions, Mon-Wed-Fri.
  - 2-person safety rule when office opened
  - \$\$\$ is a factor as we are operating with a negative budget.

#### Committees:

- W&M, July 22nd shifting to 9 AM service. Encouraging more coffee hour participation, researching plans to cool the sanctuary more effectively during hot summer months.
- Historical Preservation ad hoc, history book getting closer to completion, stay tuned.
- Parish Activities, getting good help on reorganizing and cleaning closets and pantry.
- EdMin, Bobby Jo Valentine concert in the Sanctuary June 4, 7 PM. \$10.
- Outreach, hosted a Boys and Girls Club presentation in committee, donated \$500 to support their programs. CASA is the next focus of community outreach. Received many food items from the USPS Stamp Out Hunger program, all given to the Little Food Pantry effort.
- P&F, Outreach Center window awnings are gone, new, more weather-resistant ones coming soon. Dave Shaw taking on our outdoor lawn and gardens. A member of the Church of Another Chance is providing mowing service without charge. A new Building Use document will be developed by an ad hoc committee of P&F. In the meantime, a little used room on the ground floor of the Outreach Center will be refurbished to be family-friendly and utilized by the Family Promise program, a local non-profit established to assist unhoused families find suitable housing
- Rummage Sale needs HELP. A lot of help is needed especially Sunday, 1 June to get sale items from the Craft room to the Church Hall.

Brad closed us in prayer, meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM.

Next meeting 18 June, 2025. Dan opens, Gran closes.