**NEW MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**

**September 15, 2026**

Present: Steve Kolitz, Pastor Lee, Mike Hopp, Mary Prause, Chris Prause, Jerry Jones, Carolyn Nuzzi, Marlene Davis, Martha McMahon, Kimberly Rothen, Val Kolitz, Patty Jacobson

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm; an opening prayer by Pastor Lee followed.

**Steve Kolitz:** recap of old business:

The legal matter concerning the Education Center is behind us

Cell tower: permits are coming soon; hoping for groundbreaking in November

Church Usage: no active interest at this time for leasing the Education Center. However, an interest in renting Fellowship Hall has been offered by "Music Time with Miss Cheryl" – a preschool music class – this request will be presented at the next Trustees meeting

Food Truck – no news

Second Blessing Boutique: More help is needed; there is a large inventory of items. Hoping to use the "Square" and Venmo for purchasing items. The income since opening is $3303. Val shared that high school students have expressed an interest in helping in the Boutique to fulfill their requirement for community service hours.

Mike Hopp shared that a new control panel for one of the air conditioner units in the sanctuary will be installed within the week

A summary of the cables and speaker revamping in the Sanctuary: more speakers will make a difference, a new amplifier will help the Praise Band immensely. Paying for this: monies have been received in advance ($2000 from an anonymous donor and $1000 from Carolyn Nuzzi); Jerry Jones stated that Trustees should pay for the remainder of the cost. There may be more money in restricted funds; Jerry will look into this. However, there was further discussion about having a Capital Campaign to finance the remainder of the cost. A motion was made by Mary Prause to "have a church wide campaign to ask for donations to pay for upgrading the sound system beyond the amount that has already been received." Mike Hopp seconded the motion. A brief discussion followed wherein Mary stated she would like a visual representation of the collection, i.e. a "thermometer" type design. A vote followed which was unanimous in approval. Steve will follow through with the details.

Mary Prause mentioned that Harlan would like to have a paid singer in the choir; this request should go to SPR and the Finance Committee for further discussion.

A suggestion for a "Wednesday evening praise event" was offered by Steve; the goal would be to attract more young people and young families. Praise music (recorded/canned music) would be offered and a devotion or witness from a church member. Steve and Val Kolitz will work on this concept along with their granddaughters, Avery and Jayna. Further discussion tabled for next month's meeting.

Online forms via the church's website: continue to work on them; give them to Sharon when completed

Name Change for the church: Steve suggested the name "Life in Mission Church". Jerry shared that changing the name is a lengthy process and that we should talk to the New Fairfield church about the process they went through when they changed their name. Jerry also suggested that a champion and a whole team are needed to put it together. Along with this discussion, it was shared that we have been known as a Mission Church and we shouldn't always focus on the finances. How can we re-focus on better ways to get people involved and invested in our church?

Reports:

**Jerry Jones – Church Treasurer:** $25,000 has been moved from the Scholarship account to the General Fund to cover end of the year expenses. And some very good news! The bequest from Kenneth Kinson has been verified and a check for $45,000+ is enroute to the church!

**Kimberly Rothen – Finance Committee:** presented 2 forms related to the audit that was recently completed. They will be sent to Patty Jacobson, the recording secretary, and sent along with the minutes from this meeting. After review by the Council members, they will be offered up for approval at the October Council meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Patricia Jacobson, Recording Secretary

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

## JERRY JONES - CHURCH TREASURER

1.) Work is beginning on 2027 Budget Development. Plan is to present to October Finance Committee and November Church Council. Below is a Historic look at our P&L from 2020-2026. It highlights that large budget deficits on the church side are not a new thing.

2.) I took a look at our deposits for the Thrift Shop and it shows $2,976 through 9/5/26.

3.) I also looked at Craft sales and they have generated $1,949 of income this year.

4.) I previously reported that Dinners have generated about $3,700 so far this year.

These have been much needed and appreciated. Thanks to all who contribute to these results.

5.) Unfortunately, as of this writing there is no new news on the leasing of the Ed Center Space, and no work has commenced on the Cell Tower. Both of these are needed and could bring us a balanced budget if income is fully realized.

Respectfully Submitted.

Jerry

| | | Historical Look at our P&L | | | | | |
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| | | | | | | | |
| **Year** | | **Income** | | **Expense** | | **P & L** | |
| | | | | | | | |
| 2020 Actual | | $ 183,006 | | $ 286,000 | | $ (102,994) | |
| | | | | | | | |
| 2021 Actual | | $ 192,542 | | $ 290,805 | | $ (98,263) | |
| | | | | | | | |
| 2022 Actual | | $ 175,772 | | $ 272,508 | | $ (96,736) | |
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| 2023 Actual | | $ 170,902 | | $ 235,299 | | $ (64,397) | |
| | | | | | | | |
| 2024 Actual | | $ 173,283 | | $ 242,389 | | $ (69,106) | |
| | | | | | | | |
| 2025 Actual | | $ 160,625 | | $ 255,153 | | $ (94,528) | |
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| 2026 Budget | | $ 165,200 | | $ 275,605 | | $ (110,405) | |

## KIMBERLY ROTHEN - FINANCE

I have completed the church audit for 2025. Everything was in order (as expected).

## DOREEN SHEA - CONGREGATIONAL CARE

We are continuing to visit and make calls to check in on others.

## PASTOR LEE

I want to share the schedule for the Church/Charge Conference. Our joint parish conference is scheduled for Sunday, November 1 at 3:00 p.m.
We haven't finalized the location yet, but I will follow up as soon as it's confirmed.

## CAROLYN NUZZI - EVANGELISM

For August, our committee had no new activities. We met on Sept. 13 after worship service and made plans for the period of mid-Sept. to the end of Oct. For Rally Sunday on the 13th, Ohyeun created a powerpoint show of our church's recent activities and groups. It was long because we have so much to be proud of. It was the Evangelism Committee's intention to encourage all our members and potential ones.

We now plan to offer a light lunch and activities after worship service on Sept. 20 and Oct. 18. We also will have the Blessing of the Animals on the New Milford Green on Sunday Oct. 11 from 2-4PM.

# TERRI HUDAK – SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School Report
Tuesday, Sept 15, 2026
Sunday School Report

#1. We had a successful VBS when you consider the fun and joy on the kids' faces. Ohyeun Lee took on the major project and ran with it! There was adult helpers/volunteers like Lynn Singleton, Rosaura Frias and Omar Lora and Valorie and Steve Kolitz, Pastor lee and myself. There were only 5 kids but as stated they all enjoyed the overnight fellowship Called “Camp Firelight!’
We are so blessed to have Pastor and Ohyeun Lee as our leaders in our church ministry!!
#2. I have prepared the Acolyte robes(lengthened a few and cleaned them all). I truly feel if we stay firm and encourage the children to participate and wear the robes in the service of our church they will feel the special appreciation in the formality. Some do not want to wear them, but I will still encourage them to do so and ask their family for their support. *Yet it is more important to have them there, than for them not to participate because they don’t want to wear the robe. What is everyone’s opinion please?*
#3. Rally Sunday, just behind us, was full of excitement. Realizing the “Rally Day”was to acknowledge everything this church family does. We’ve **always been mission focused.** Sunday demonstrated that very thing ,thanks to Ohyeun and the tech team and Sharon in the church office for running a beautiful video on the missions and VBS and other events we’ve had in the past year or so. We omitted Sunday school due to the video and recognitions. We had little time to complete our lessons.
#4. Ohyeun Lee has chosen to order the youth group their own books to read and study from Cokesbury. Starting next week, if they arrive ,each student will have their own and refer to it during class. I have also spoken to Steve Kolitz and Mike Hopp, two leaders in our church family, to work with our youth in presenting unique ways for the preteen and teens to stay the course with our church missions.
Mike used the title of “*Life’s lessons*” for their classes. These men both leaders and mission promotors, exemplify what I think the youth needs. Their leadership skills, the way they treat others. Both are fathers and have been around teens enough to know what they want and need. I am so happy they will help to share their life experiences with our youth.
#5. We’re in need of more storytellers. If either of us were unable to teach, for one reason or another, then we are out of luck.
Please consider learning the Godly play curriculum, which has been available on YOU TUBE to learn how to tell the stories. And, we can review the general instructions from the creator,theologian,author,and educator Rev.Dr. Jerome Berrymore.
#6. I’m still offering a *reward* to the elementary school children for bringing their bibles to S.S and to participate in the reading of the bible each week. It’s something they all seem to enjoy.