

UNOFFICIAL

Deacon Meeting Minutes for June 14, 2026

In attendance: Pastor Jane, Debbie Pratt, Mary Ann Charron, Lisa Fenwick, Steve Fredette, Kimberly Stannard, Ron Stack

The meeting was called to order at 11:35 am.

Debbie began the meeting with a prayer.

New Business:

Steve made a motion to accept the minutes of the April meeting. Ron seconded; the motion passed. (The Deacons did not meet in May.)

Deacon of the Month for June is Steve.

Pastor Jane will be absent on September 5th and 12th, and October 4th and 11th. Two of these dates, 9/5 and 10/4, are Communion Sundays, so a lay person is not able to lead the service those days. PJ will ask Pastor Julie Demaree or Rev. Kathy Clark to cover those days. John Fenwick has agreed to cover 9/12, and Steve Fredette will do 10/11.

Ron will be out of town from early September to the end of October. We'll want to examine the schedule of duties, and rearrange things to cover any dates for which Ron had been listed.

Ron will also be absent on June 21st. Mary Ann will cover.

Debbie will be absent on July 12; Lisa will be absent July 19th.

Most of our Sunday School teachers will be taking the summer off, but Debbie will continue to hold classes. We have a nice group of children attending regularly, and they enjoy being here.

On July 5th, "Teen Challenge" will attend our service. They will sing, and present a half-hour program; a free will offering will be taken. There will be no sermon that day. Members of other churches will be invited.

Pastor Jane presented an outreach idea, in the form of small, half-page flyers which could be distributed to establishments around the area. The flyers describe our church, its mission, and invites folks to check us out. Ron suggested that our web address be added to the flyer, and Debbie asked to include Sunday School and mention our monthly free lunches. We'll start with 100 copies.

The second offering on Father's Day, June 21, will go to the **Dodge House in Rutland**, which provides support for veterans.

Our church picnic will be August 23rd at Crystal Beach. Mary Ann has reserved the pavilion. The church will provide hot dogs and hamburgers; attendees will be asked to bring salads and such. Pastor Jane will once again offer baptism in Lake Bomoseen. We'll have our regular service in church before the picnic.

A church member has noted that our service runs very long on Communion Sundays. We discussed ways to reduce the time, including singing just one or two verses of hymns and removing the "Unison Prayer of Transformation" from all services.

There was also an objection made to having Deacons administer Communion instead of the pastor. We reviewed the practices of several former pastors, and it seems like a mixed bag. Some used Deacons, some served it themselves. Our current practice will continue. However, Pastor Jane did agree to stand off to the side to be available to those who so desire to have a prayer or a blessing, *AFTER they have received Communion*. That may be more comfortable for those who do not wish to engage in that manner.

Old Business:

An update on the results of the membership letter mailed in April was provided. Two letters were returned. None of the people contacted responded to the letter. As agreed, we are now moving forward with the current list of 51 active members. This will serve as the basis for our Per Capita contributions to the UCC.

The Spring Fling cinnamon roll sale brought in \$305 to the Deacon Fund. Debbie suggested that next year, instead of the rolls, we sell hot dogs. We could set up in the front yard of the church. This year there was only one food vendor in the Park, and the lines were long.

Warmer weather is upon us, so we can now install the prayer boxes outside our building. John Fenwick will do this; Lisa will remind him. We'll take a walk around and figure out the best way to hang them.

Our monthly free lunches will continue through the summer. In addition, we hope to hold one or two community dinners, serving hot dogs and hamburgers outside. These will take place in July and August.

Ron made a motion to adjourn at noon. Pastor Jane seconded; the motion passed.

Our next meeting will be SEPTEMBER 13th. (No meetings in July or August)

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Fenwick, scribe

(In addition, although not discussed at the meeting, Debbie and Lisa visited the bank in April and are now both signers on the Deacon checking account. Debbie set up a desk and a secure filing cabinet in the basement to be used by Deacons.)