

UNOFFICIAL

Deacon Meeting Minutes for September 27, 2026

In attendance: Pastor Jane, Mary Ann Charron, Lisa Fenwick, Steve Fredette.

The meeting was called to order at 11:45 am.

Pastor Jane began the meeting with a prayer.

New Business:

Deacon of the Month for October is Kimberly.

Pastor Jane will be absent on October 4 and October 11. Rev. Julie Demaree will lead our service on the 4th; Steve Fredette will take the 11th. Debbie has Rev. Julie's phone number in case of emergency.

An informal informational meeting will be held on October 18th, to review the proposed budget and proposed changes to the bylaws. All are invited, as this will be a chance to ask questions and make changes before the Annual Meeting on November 8th.

Also on November 8th, our church will serve as a "neutral pulpit" for a pastoral candidate for the Dorset church. This person will lead the service and preach. Members of the Dorset church will be in attendance to observe the candidate in action.

A brief discussion was held regarding coverage for sound and camera responsibilities. No one had a copy of the current schedule handy, but it was agreed that everyone has been very willing to cover when an absence occurs. Lisa will begin to work on a schedule for next year, assuming the same people are willing to serve.

More Deacons are needed. Nancy Pierce has expressed interest in becoming a Deacon Helper, but is not ready to serve as full Deacon. PJ would like to ask Lyman; all agreed he'd be a good candidate.

A few ideas for Mission work were suggested, even though there is currently no Mission committee. Steve suggested a church podcast. Other thoughts include a table at Fall Fest next year, perhaps selling craft items; a return to baking bread at the church; offering a simple free pattern to our congregation to knit or crochet warm hats that could be donated to those in need.

We will again be requesting donations of Halloween candy. Steve will announce it in church.

It was unclear if a Cookie Walk would be held again this year. A possible date would be Dec. 12th.

In Sunday school the children are learning the Lord's Prayer. PJ would like to have them take turns leading the prayer during the weekly service. Perhaps they could also begin to serve as greeters, acolytes, or even read simple passages of Scripture. It would be great to get them more involved.

We'd like to resume viewing the video series, "The Chosen." PJ suggested we do it at lunchtime, since it is hard for some folks to drive in the dark. However, that would exclude people that are working. No firm day or date was determined.

A fall book study will be held via Zoom, one night per week, date to be determined. Mary Ann suggested a book called Three Ordinary Voices of God. PJ will check it out, and see if used copies can be ordered.

A Bible study will be held during Lent.

Activities for the Holiday season were enumerated:

- Advent begins November 29, the same weekend as Thanksgiving.
- Decorating the church for Christmas will be December 5th at 11 am, and include lunch.
- The Live Nativity will be December 19th.
- PJ would love to offer a holiday concert of some sort here in our sanctuary. She will make contact with the local school music directors.
- The Advent by Candlelight for women event was well received last year. We should plan to do it again this year.
- January 1 is a Saturday. PJ suggested a nice church dinner to celebrate the New Year. Everyone liked the idea. No details were discussed.

Steve suggested a trip for our church family to New York City to see the Radio City Christmas program. Performances begin November 4th. He'll research ticket prices and train schedules. Lisa suggested there might be alternatives for Christmas programs nearer to home, such as the Dorset Playhouse. We'll each look around our areas and see what we can discover.

Old Business:

Monthly luncheons have been attended by 35-50 people. Let's keep doing this.

The summer picnic was enjoyable, despite the weather. We discussed the location of the pavilion we had this year. It was more private, but would have made baptisms difficult because of the distance to the water. Steve suggested that next year, in advance of the picnic, we make it known to the community that baptisms will be held in case someone wants to join us.

We reviewed the Deacon budget figures which will be included in the church budget.

The installation of the prayer boxes is on hold, due to the questions regarding attaching anything to the building. We don't want to jeopardize our grant status.

Belatedly, Steve made a motion to accept the minutes of our June meeting. Mary Ann seconded; the motion passed.

Lisa made a motion to adjourn at 12:40 pm. Mary Ann seconded; the motion passed.

Our next meeting will be OCTOBER 11 after church.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Fenwick, scribe