

2026.05.05 Committee of the Whole (LC) All Hands Meeting (April/May)

- Minutes from previous meetings. [Ministry Meeting Minutes Archive](#)
- [Join Zoom Meeting.](#) Meeting ID: 825 8167 0394, Passcode: 487224, by phone: 309.205.3325 US
- **In attendance:** Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade, Erin Sennott, Charlene Carle, Susan D'Arcy Fuller (Regrets sent from Aaron Olapade, Terri Bracy, Christy Miller)

Agenda & Minutes (see meeting summaries below)

1. Check on/Create Agenda - none needed
2. [Pastoral "Prayer" - Rev. Wendy](#)
3. Legacy Team Updates - more detail to be provided in the next 30 days
 - a. Met with Attorneys for clarity of the corporate Dissolution Process and developing priorities for action as well as timeline
 - b. Met with Chris Mereschuk, Director of the SNEUCC Legacy Corporation regarding the options and boundaries for investing Sanctuary's our legacy in the "Continuing Covenant Collaborative" (Faithful Endings, Inspired Beginnings). From the presentation:
 - i. Continuing Covenant Collaborative: Compassionate partners, knowledgeable guides, skilled practitioners, innovative leaders, faithful stewards
 - ii. Providing expertise, resources, education, discernment, logistics, facilitation, support, & accompaniment
 - iii. Our work is designed to...
 1. Ease the Legacy & Church Redevelopment processes for churches.
 2. Educate, Equip, & Empower clergy & church leaders to guide their congregations through these processes.
 3. Extend the reach of our SNEUCC colleagues & covenant partners.
 4. **Embody the four-point values of SNEUCC.**
 - a. **Discipleship**
 - b. **Love & Justice**
 - c. **Agents of Change**
 - d. **Covenant Partnerships**
 5. Engage with the Past, Present, & Possible.
 - iv. *Meeting Notes: Those in attendance really responded positively to the values, and flexibility of this option, felt like the Ancestors would too.*
 - c. Initiating research about and talks with several organizations aligned with our top two priorities for Legacy: Feeding the Hungry & Progressive Clergy Formation. TBD Progressive Youth Faith Formation, Arts & Spirituality
 - d. Ministry Transitions
 - i. To Grace Episcopal Church in Process:

1. Am2pm summer 2026 - currently planning shared program August 10 - 14 Sanctuary to fund from 2026 budget and budget for any additional funds in 2027 budget to be proposed)
 2. Micropantry Mission Proposal - \$ Grant to Resource for one year the a) remove Sanctuary Micropantry in West Medford in state of disrepair, b) add a new micropantry at Grace, c) Transition Webpage and social media to Grace (Funds already budgeted/in restricted funds)
 3. OWL Program - \$ Grant to Resource Training 4 - 5 Grace leaders and transition Webpage, registration, program materials so that Grace can offer in 2026/27 program year (\$6700 budgeted in 2026)
 4. Proposed/negotiating transition of Fiduciary Roles for Safe Medford, Medford Overcoming Addiction, Interfaith Clergy to Grace
- ii. Sanctuary Art & Soul - monthly "Art & Soul" (aka: Drawn Together) ends 9/2026
 - iii. Sanctuary weekly Soul Circle - ends 9/2026
 - iv. Pop-Up Pantry Through November - Partnership with Shiloh
 - v. Shiloh Baptist Church Barter Agreement (\$2000.00 per month value for rent) and Clergy Consulting (Rev. Wendy).
 1. Working toward completion of the Consulting Role concurrent with Sanctuary's ministry completion September 2026
 2. Will budget for Sanctuary Rental through 12/31/2026 (at minimum). Not yet clear whether we need that working space beyond.
 3. More to be revealed as far as this part of the transition, given the financial, administrative, and leadership work to be done after the closure of the ministry
- e. Plans for Final Ministry Celebration - September 2026 - tbd
- i. Thoughts? Those in attendance
 1. Acknowledged the importance and need to do something.
 2. Question is where, when, who, and how? A saturday so other faith leaders can be there,
 3. Talked about this being the end of a mission that has lasted for 154 years (1872). We did not celebrate 150 (2022)
 4. This is more than the 30 of us; potentially people who left would come back, but also those who have been served by us (see above) We are both a church and a civic institution - the interfaith and civic communities would come, SNEUCC Conference people would come, colleagues from around the association would come
 5. Ideas:
 - a. A final worship at Shioh; music, preacher, liturgy of completion for the church and for the pastor

- b. Celebration @ hotel, event center, St. Raphael's Parish Center (Erin to determine how many people that can hold)?
 - c. Really coming up fast - so finding a place might be hard!!
 - d. Probably be easier to find a date in mid October - last weekend in sept is SNEUCC Annual Conference; Susan not available Oct 3 - what about Saturday, October 10 (Indigenous People's weekend), October 17, October 24?
- ii. Volunteers? Planning Team
4. Sharing our spiritual journeys and practices as we move toward Sanctuary's completion (9/2026).

[1 Corinthians 12:12-27](#)

We are one body, even when we are not of one mood.

Some of us bring steadiness. Some bring questions. Some bring grief. Some bring grit.

No part gets to say to another, "We don't need you."

And no part should be treated as disposable because it is tender, tired, or loud.

If one part aches, the whole body is affected.

If one part is honored, the whole body is strengthened.

So tonight we practice belonging, not winning.

We listen for what each of us needs to stay faithful, as we move toward completion.

Questions to consider as we move toward completion of Sanctuary:

- a. What are you experiencing as you face the completion of Sanctuary's Ministry and Mission?
- b. The role of Sanctuary in supporting your transition to an alternative faith community and/ or spiritual practice - How can we help? *Make recommendations and connections, plan for the closing celebration to honor the past and the sending. Gathering, worshipping, ritual, celebration, testimony.*
- c. Does anyone have faith communities or spiritual experiences that have been helpful that you would like to recommend?
- d. Volunteers to go and try/watch some communities and bring back ideas? Could people do some reconnaissance?
- e. Suggestions made (discussion about) by those in attendance (all of these are LGBTQ welcoming)

- i. [Grace Episcopal Medford](#) (aligned theologically and socially, high liturgy - book of worship); [Grace Vimeo Page/Channel](#); new music minister starting this month!
- ii. [The Parish of the Epiphany, Winchester](#)
- iii. [First Congregational Winchester](#), has worship and arts ministry, strong mission ministries, healthy finances; [FCC Winchester Youtube channel](#)
- iv. [Reservoir Church, Cambridge](#), hearing amazing things about this non-denominational contemporary worship style church which is engaged in GBIO, anti-ICE efforts, and allows questions and doubts - supports “a third way” defined as this: Third way for us means our church doesn’t always need to take sides on controversial issues. It’s an alternative to policing people’s consciences and making definitive statements about what’s right and what’s wrong for all people, at all times. Great kids programs. [Reservoir Youtube channel](#)
- v. [First Church Somerville](#) Great music program with wide range of contemporary and classic hymnody, Pastor Jenn Macy is a stunning poet and theologian! Very invested in mission, ministry, children, the unhoused in the neighborhood, Open and Affirming commitments. Their website description is as I have found it to be: “Curious, fun-loving, warm, open. Progressive, justice-doing, questioning. Young and young at heart. Boundary-busting community. Just as God made us, and as we are becoming. We are Beloved. So are you.” You can [listen to sermons here](#). Join worship via Zoom by contacting the office <office@firstchurchsomerville.org> for the link.
- vi. Hillside Community Church - several of our members have happily continued their relationship with Hillside

SNEUCC Legacy Process Reference Materials:

1. [Checklist Living Legacy v2025 Appendix A](#)
2. [Legacy Working Group Description](#)
3. [Ministry Completion and Legacy Process](#)
4. [Legacy Church Cost Considerations](#)
5. [Romero Prayer](#)
6. [Complete Living Legacy: Church Legacy & Closure Resource 2025 ed.](#)