

## 2026.06.02 Committee of the Whole (LC) All Hands Meeting (June)

- 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, Terri Bracy, Jackie Kerstner, Erin Sennott, Carvina Williams, Susan D'Arcy Fuller, Paul Sennott, Gini Berthume, Fraelean Curtis

### Agenda & Minutes (see meeting summaries below)

1. [Pastoral Prayer](#)
2. Legacy Team Updates
  - a. Reminder: Final Sanctuary Circle is Sept 20, 2026, other ministries closing between now and then, except the pop-up pantry to continue with Shiloh leadership post September
  - b. Planning for October 17 final Worship and Celebration (***date needs to be finalized***)
    - i. @ Shiloh for Worship (3 - 5 pm)
    - ii. @ TBD for Celebration (5:30 - 8 pm)
  - c. **Propose & Vote a Church Membership Review** - in preparation for decision-making and legal responsibilities for dissolution/quorum (32 members)
    - i. Some members previously requested release from membership and held off in order to allow for their "vote-to-close" to be included. Other members have unsubscribed/blocked communication from the church. Others have ceased to participate in government, giving, or ministry/mission.
      1. Susan wants to understand process; yes there will be another vote to legally dissolve and decide what to do with the assets. Is there any chance that we would reopen, given the loss of those people?
      2. Erin stated no, we are moving to dissolution
      3. We want people to participate if they want to participate
      4. Asking them to let us know, we need to release them if they are not going to participate.
      5. Moved by Erin, Seconded by Terri: Unanimous affirmation
    - ii. Propose:
      1. E-Communication to each member identified above asking status/desire to participate in dissolution activities/decisions or release from membership
      2. Follow up with a phone call (Terri Bracy is willing to volunteer)
      3. Remove from membership as per outcomes
  - d. Note - Legal recommended election of Legacy Team as officers of the congregation at next annual meeting
  - e. Note - Legacy Team working with Legal Team to develop a plan to Buy-out Pastoral Contract Extension to clear the path to prompt dissolution.

- f. Note - Legacy Team prioritizing the disposition of property to clear the path to prompt dissolution.
  - g. Note - Other matters such as who are the beneficiaries? Has to follow the resolution of the former matters so that we can prioritize first things first.
  - h. Ministry Transitions
    - i. To Grace Episcopal Church in Process:
      - 1. Am2pm summer 2026 - 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 - \$ Grant to Grace resource for one year; budgeted in 2026 & Restricted Savings
        - a. remove Sanctuary Micropantry in West Medford (in a state of disrepair
        - b. add a new micropantry at Grace (ordered and to be installed in August am2pm
        - c. transition Webpage and social media to Grace (over the summer)
      - 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)
    - ii. Transition of Fiduciary Roles for Safe Medford, Medford Overcoming Addiction, Interfaith Clergy - no longer to Grace.
    - iii. 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. Budget for Sanctuary Rental through 12/31/2026 (at minimum).
  - i. **Ask for volunteers for planning and implementing the Final Ministry Celebration** - Saturday, October 17, 2026
    - i. The end of a mission that has lasted for 154 years (1872). We did not celebrate 150 (2022)
    - ii. Volunteers For the Planning Team (*Jackie, Vina, Erin (St Raphael's), Fraelean, Terri*)
3. 2026 Annual Meeting
- a. **Motion and Vote:** *Delay date of 2026 Annual Meeting from by-law requirement of no later than the first Sunday of July (July 5, 2026) to be held no later than the first Sunday of August.* Terri moves, Jackie second; Unanimous Vote
    - i. Susan is not available for these dates July 12 - 18.
    - ii. Jackie is not available before the following week July 16 - 21.
  - b. [Tentative Agenda for 2026 Annual Meeting](#)

4. *Spiritual Questions to consider as we move toward completion of Sanctuary. **Would you come to a summer “retreat” to talk about these things?***

- 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: ***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? *Susan noted that she would not want to go looking until the fall.*
- 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](mailto:office@firstchurchsomerville.org)> for the link.

- vi. Hillside Community Church - several of our members have happily continued their relationship with Hillside
  - vii. Fraelean interested in UU Churches:
    - 1. UU Medford
    - 2. UU Arlington
5. Close in Prayer - Terri Bracy offered prayer, 8:10 pm

**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.](#)