**MINUTES, NEMAC (Northeast Mission Area Council) Meeting July 23, 2026**

**Attendance.** *Present:* Christ Church: Sandy Pavick (Co-Chair); St. Andrew/Epiphany: Rev. Lisa O'Rear (Co-Chair), Andrew Spiesman (Secretary), guest Christine Siarka. *Via ZOOM*: St. Christopher: Linda Sylor; St. James: Phyllis Harbor and Hannah Fairbanks; St. Peter: Jacob Dinsmore; St. Luke: Rev. Chris McCann; Grace: Harry Dodds; Epiphany: Nancy Geiger.

***OPENINGS***

The meeting opened with prayer at 6:04 PM.

**April 2026 Minutes**. ***Moved, Approve the minutes as Corrected, Rev. Chris McCann, Second: Andrew Spiesman > Carried***

**FINANCE REPORT**. An additional $2500 of funding has been requested from the Diocese. (From Darrell Knapp, Treasurer of St. James.) ***Moved, Accept the Finance Report, Nancy Geiger > Carried unanimously***

***OLD BUSINESS***

- **Future of NEMAC & Misson Areas.** Rev. Chris McCann reported that the Misson Areas survey will be sent to the Diocese of Ohio Deans from the Diocesan Council subcommittee studying the question. The survey will be forwarded to Clergy, Wardens, Mission Area Committee members and a few members of each congregation. Data will then be analyzed and decisions made. The process will not be completed in time for discussion at the 2026 Diocesan Convention, but is targeted for action at the 2027 convention.
- **Guns to Gardens.** This event at Epiphany was canceled; Church Insurance refused to insure it. The $500 that Epiphany received from a NEMAC funding request will be returned to the group.
- **The NEMAC Captains Baseball Outing.** This was a great success. 70 people from several NEMAC churches attended. An event will be planned for next year.

***NEW BUSINESS***

- **Chili Cookoff.** This will be held on Saturday, October 24, hosted at St. Andrew.
- **Rabbit Run Theater.** A group outing is another collaborative event opportunity for Summer 2027.
- **The SPARK Program.** Guest Christine Siarka spoke about the SPARK (Spirit/Peace/Art/Relax/Kindness) Room housed at St. Andrew. (Christine is an artist who has lead groups in Mandala workshops that include Centering Prayer, and allow groups to gather, share, laugh, connect and create.)

***PARISH UPDATES***

**St. Christopher.** A Celebration of New Ministry for Rev. Gabriel Lawrence will be held on September 8th at 6 PM. The church participated in the Gates Mills July 4th Parade.

**St. Andrew.** The summer Bocce Tournament is underway. The annual Candy Apple Craft Fair will be held on Saturday, October 10th from 10 AM to 2 PM.

**Church of The Epiphany**. An outdoor concert featured Opus 216. Centering Prayer resumes on Tuesdays in August from 6:00 to 7:15 PM. The evening also includes Bible Study and Compline.

**St. James**. The **Daughters of the King** group has been actively meeting and studying creation care. The church held a well attended picnic at Hemlock Ridge Metropark.

**St. Peter**. The parish Food Pantry is going well. The Food Pantry from the local Catholic Church is now operating out of St. Peter's building. St. Peter's plans to host Bocce games.

**Grace.** A Celebration of New Ministry for Rev. Steve Ashbury will be held September 15th at 7 PM.

**Christ Church.** The parish is busy helping with the St. Peter Food ministry. The church is having a picnic on August 1st. Their next big event is scooping ice cream at their church booth at the Grape Jamboree. The Holiday Ticket Auction will be in November.

***CLOSINGS***

**Prayer.** We recited The Lord's Prayer.

**Meeting Adjourned.** 7:04 PM

**Next Meeting Date.** Monday, October 19, 2026, 6:00 PM, in-person at St. Andrew or online via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted, Andrew Spiesman, Secretary, NEMAC