

Minutes Reaching Out Committee

20 October 2025

The meeting began with a prayer led by Cindy.

Pastors Update

Pastor Greg provided an update on the Angel Tree project, confirming that 25 angels would be provided by Sharon Kwapis, similar to last year's distribution.

Margaret Hellenberg agreed to coordinate the Angel Tree setup and decorations.

Announcement will be made by Pastor Greg either the second Sunday in November or based on receipt of the Angels. The announcement might have to be made by email blast also based on the timing of receipt and due date of return of gifts.

Digital Ministries

The advertising campaign was unsuccessful in recruiting volunteers, maybe due to difficulties with the computer earlier this year.

Next step to recruit volunteers will be direct asks starting small with the only task to be to advance the Power Point slides.

Special Offerings

Continued collection for Neighbors in Need through October.

Begin collection the first Sunday in December for the Christmas Fund offerings that benefit retired UCC pastors and lay employees.

Cindy Goller will create the announcement. Judy Gatewood-Keim will make the announcement.

Re-member Mission trip

The trip and the presentation of the Re-member trip to Pine Ridge Reservation, SD by Bri Boughner and Brenda Brummel went well despite some challenges and was meaningful for the participants.

Website Project

Progress had been paused due to Brenda Brummel's recent travels and personal circumstances,

Luncheon Update

Despite lower attendance than average the luncheon raised approximately \$300.

Reaching Out donated \$100 to the Refuge soup luncheon.

Convergence

Pastor Greg reported on the status of community interviews for the Convergence project, which are ongoing and revealing needs such as narcotics abuse.

Updates to the congregation are planned for November 9th, with a potential backup date in January via Zoom if community interviews are not completed in time.

Other business

The group discussed upcoming community needs, particularly related to food and housing, and considered a potential special offering for the food pantry and Refuge in January or February.

Judy Gatewood-Keim shared exciting news about the approval of therapy animals in Gaylord schools. The donation of space has reduced barriers to creating therapy animal teams to support the hospital and now the schools. Also the donation of time by members of the Reaching Out Committee have made possible the creation of new therapy animal teams.

The meeting was closed with a prayer.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 17th at 7pm.