

# Western New York Area Churches In Covenant



## 2025 SPRING MEETING MINUTES

9:00 a.m.

May 3, 2025

St. Matthew's United Church of Christ

5289 McKinley Pkwy., Hamburg, NY 14075

### 9:00 am **Registration & Display Tables by Wider Ministries of WNYACIC**

NY/HELP Honduras, United Church Manor, Western Area Youth, Dunkirk Camp and Conference Center, Senior Wishes, Plymouth Crossroads, Department of Community Ministries

### 9:30 am **Worship** – Reflection and Call for Help from Andy Cammarata of Journey's End

*Offering dedicated to helping refugees in Buffalo, NY*

### 10:00 am **Business Meeting**

**Call to Order:** Western Association Meeting (UCC), *Dona Roll, Moderator*

**Declaration of Quorum** *Counters: Ruth Snyder, Jess Kacalski*

- *54 in attendance: 24 ministers, 44 voting delegates*
- *25 UCC churches, 2 DoCC churches*
- *A quorum was declared.*

### **Blessing the Legacy of Good Shepherd Community of Faith**

Pastor Tanya Spencer and parishioner Sandy Rutkowski represented Good Sheperd.

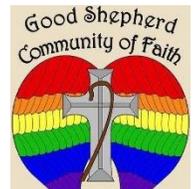
A moving laying on of hands was witnessed during this Unison Prayer:

*Gracious God, we gather with a sense of loss, but with unwavering faith in your everlasting love. We thank you for the 100 years of service, fellowship, and ministry of Good Shepherd Community of Faith.*

*We are grateful for the countless blessings, memories, and relationships built within their congregation. We give you thanks for the gifts that have come to us and to others through their ministry and acknowledge our sadness at this transition while affirming our faith in the future which rests in your care.*

*Guide us as we hold these cherished memories and carry your light forward in new endeavors, mindful of your grace and the hope you offer, honest about our sorrow, open in our love, trusting in Jesus Christ, the only head of the church.*

*We pray for those seeking a new spiritual home and for the continued growth of your kingdom until that time to come when we are completely one with you and with each other, in the name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.*



**VOTE** We acknowledge with humble gratitude Good Shepherd Community's final act of faith, their vote to close, thereby removing them from the roster of the United Church of Christ.

*Moved/Seconded/Carried*

**VOTE** Accept Proposed Amendments to Western Association Constitution and By-Laws

*Moved by Committee/No second needed/Carried*



Constitution



By-Laws

**Adjournment** of Western Association Meeting

## 2025 SPRING MEETING MINUTES *(continued)*

### Call to Order: Western Area Meeting (WNYACIC)

VOTE – Western Area Covenant

*Moved by Committee/No second needed/Carried*



Covenant

### Adjournment to Workshops

10:25-11:20 am Session 1

- A. **Learning Prophetically** - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Past, Present, Future (Guinevere Blue)
- B. **Speaking Prophetically** - Engaging Productively, Peacefully, Powerfully, and Prayerfully: Social Media and Social Confrontation (Jonathan Lawrence, Kalee Mielke & Josh Bower)

11:25 am -12:20 pm Session 2

- A. **Leading Prophetically**-18 through 35-Year-Old Leaders (Guinevere Blue & Friends)
- B. **Living Prophetically** - Embracing our LGBTQIA+ Siblings, Community, and Dreams (Roberta O'Toole, David Butler & WNYACIC Panelists: Doug Charles, Ruth Snyder, Paul Werner, Austin, Jay, and Ivy)

12:25-12:40 pm **Listening Prophetically** - Feedback from our 18–35-Year-Old Leaders

12:40 pm **Lunch, Announcements, and Session Feedback**

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Vanessa Adams, Secretary*

