

**NASHUA AREA INTERFAITH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTEES**  
**7 APRIL, 2021**

Convened at 12:01 with introductions and Meta opened with a prayer.

Present: Rabbi Jon Spira-Savett, Rev. [Sally Newhall](#), Meg Hamm, Jim Jensen, Meta Vornehm, Matthew Hodgkiss, Nancy Meyer, Bobbie Knickerbocker, Laurie Toupin, Rev. Karl Hester, Joan Goeckel, Rev. Allison Palm, Isadora Rodrigues-Legendre, Pam Wellman, Rev. [Kristy Besada](#), Anna Mollettieri, Rev. Rich Bensinger, Rev. Michael Greene, Rev. Kelly Turney, Rev. [Kim Hester](#), Rev. [Andy Armstrong](#), [Rosemarie Dykeman](#), Nonny Egbuono, Aron DiBacco, Lindsay Rinaldi, [Mike Apfelberg](#), Rev. Tanya Stormo Rasmussen

Sharing a little about our representative faith traditions:

**Christian Science Church:** Meg Hamm, Laurie Toupin presenters

Founded by a native member of the state of NH: Mary Baker Eddy, born 1821 in Bow, NH.

Denomination founded in 1866; NH branch founded in 1888.

Read Science & Health alongside the Bible (which is primary) as texts.

Every healing is a learning experience, and improvement of understanding and movement into a truer form of our spiritual being.

We all have access to healing power.

Nashua Church of Christian Science in Nashua are moving; sold their building, and looking to buy a building on Broad Street, Nashua.

**Evangelical Lutheran Church of America:** Revs. Kim & Karl Hester, presenters

National body headquartered in Chicago, headed by Bishop elected every 6 years.

Regional bodies: Synods, elected bishop of each synod. New England: John Hazlewood

Local Churches

One of most highly connected ecumenical groups; lots of full-communion agreements with other denominations. Mission-minded around the world.

Martin Luther "founder"--rendered Bible into German at time of inauguration of the printing press, so Biblical word

Living in tension: Saint and sinner; both-and, divine/mundane living in tension; sacraments divine elements made of mundane elements.

**Unitarian Universalist Church:** Rev. Allison Palm, presenter

Most misunderstood about UUs: historically Christian and culturally Protestant; but not currently Christian. Unitarianism and Universalism both emerged from Bible-readers that 1) Unitarians couldn't find basis for the Trinity in the Bible; 2) Universalism came to the core belief that a loving God wouldn't send anyone to hell--everyone is saved.

Have evolved away from those traditional understandings of UUism; Protestants that protested so much that they removed themselves from Christianity altogether. Influenced by other faith

traditions, also by humanists, moved further from Christianity. Remain culturally Protestant (more people come to services on Christmas and Easter)

1961 Formation of UU denomination when Unitarians merged with Universalists nationally; Nashua churches merged in 1957, prior to national merger.

Covenantal, not creedal.

6 Sources of Wisdom (but believe that wisdom can be found anywhere).

7 Principles: deep commitment to social justice.

<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/adults/river/principles-sources>

Congregational in polity.

Growing edges: figuring out what church looks like post-pandemic; commitment to dual ministry online/in-person.

Major fundraising in the congregation's future to fulfill their mission to become increasingly welcoming, inclusive.

How are members of NAIC enjoying or appreciating this approach/use of our meeting time?

Feedback from Zoom Chat:

I have really appreciated this!

appreciated sharing

I think this sharing is vital for us to fully work together.

Our group expressed appreciation for the sharing and wondered about doing just 2 per meeting if we do this again, so we can go a little deeper

Hi everyone, I have to run to another meeting but this was amazing. I am very grateful to have been part of this meeting and hope to come again.

I appreciate this sharing and think it's really helpful. TY

A great way to get to understand each other!

Hello, I agree with Rev. Allison's comment - to share periodically from the various churches, paths. Thank you, I enjoyed...

Thank you for asking people to share. I love getting to know every's faith tradition better! And I miss you all!!

**Treasurer's Report:** Bank balances - Main: \$2663.87, CropWalk: \$1353.97, Choir: \$811.75

### **Announcements:**

#### **Lindsay Rinaldi, Exec. Director Nashua Community Music School:**

NCMS is a 35-year old nonprofit organization: mission is to create innovative music programming accessible to all.

They are initiating a new program in search of community partners: Motivate with Music Program. Goal is to provide remote or hybrid services to reach and enhance life for seniors, using music as a therapeutic tool.

Looking for contact people to connect NCMS to seniors in need of this sort of programming. If you're interested in help to connect seniors in your community with Motivate With Music Program please feel free to contact: [lindsay.rinaldi@nashuacms.org](mailto:lindsay.rinaldi@nashuacms.org)

**Meta Vornehm and Allison Palm:** Black Heritage Trail helping to sponsor program--  
How to Have Faithful But Difficult Conversations about Race on April 21 at 6 p.m.  
How to have Difficult (but Faithful) Conversations about Race  
[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlscuGtrTkoHNZTrV\\_Ytto\\_QopA1KMaePY7](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlscuGtrTkoHNZTrV_Ytto_QopA1KMaePY7)

**Rabbi Jon:** The Day of Remembrance for the Holocaust and the Resistance (Yom Ha'Shoa)  
Rivier University program tomorrow at 7 p.m.  
Register to participate by Zoom, or  
Sonia Asher is speaker, will be at Temple Beth Abraham  
[https://www.tbanashua.org/event/Yom\\_Hashoah\\_2021](https://www.tbanashua.org/event/Yom_Hashoah_2021)

From Housing Justice Group: City's Master Plan is at a stage that is accepting input for affordable housing; we will be approaching this group to assist with advocacy, and work on an affordable housing trust fund.

[Mike Apfelberg](#): Second annual sky-diving event fund-raiser happening in June--contact Mike if you're interested. Money raised will go to help youth homelessness issues.

[Laurie Toupin](#): The First Church of Christ Scientist is presenting an online lecture entitled: "The How and Why and Wonder of Spiritual Healing," by Beth Packer of Australia on May 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting Concluded at 1 p.m. followed by a secondary conversation for those who wished to continue conversation about how congregations are dealing with the changes the COVID-19 pandemic has effected, one year hence.

**NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, 5 May 2021 at Noon**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Tanya Stormo Rasmussen