

NAIC Meeting Minutes, Tolles Street Mission, Nashua, February 4, 2026

Present: John Rowntree, Past President; Meta Vornehm, Treasurer; Shewanda Lopez, Karl Hester, Kim Hester, Allison Palm, President; Sadie Kahn-Greene, Jarretta Copeland, Chevan Reycroft, Sarah Sanders, Michael Packard, Mike Apfelberg, Kelly Turney, Jocelyn Sharp-Henning, Secretary, Rohan Phillips, Speaker, Pria Phillips.

On **Zoom:** Bobbie Knickerbocker, Carla Tolomeo, Betsy Cotton, Nonny Egbuonu, Tasha Parker, Rachael Parker, Jim Jensen.

Pastor Chevan Reycroft welcomed all and offered a prayer followed by introductions.

Meta posed the following questions for community conversation: What does youth involvement look like in your congregation and how do you encourage participation and leadership?

Rohan Phillips, our speaker who is an 8th grader from World Academy, would like to create a Nashua Area Interfaith Youth Council. He appreciates a wide range of religions in his family but sees a lot of hostility in the world when people are asked to learn about others. He sees a diverse society but people who tend to stay within their own groups and he wants to foster connection, dialogue and education, and pluralism.

Rohan would like to connect local middle and high school students to be bridge builders and future leaders who create positive local change. He would like municipalities and secular institutions to include and represent pluralism. He hopes NAIC members and interested parents with a CORI will support this.

His next meeting will discuss concrete steps, he is developing a flyer, and he would like to create a Calendar of Observances and a website chronicling the Nashua area interfaith landscape. A list of contacts at congregations was created so that Rohan can contact them about interest.

Goals will be made once interested youth come forward. There will be education, maybe field trips to different congregations. Issues important to youth will be identified and shared with adults. Members thought there were youth who would be interested.

Kim Hester and Shewanda Lopez agreed to work with Rohan to get started. It was noted that basic safety practices, liability insurance, 501 (c)(3), etc. needs to be considered.

NAIC BUSINESS:

NAIC **Treasurer's Report** by Meta Vornehm:

Checking Account:	\$2,445.33
Crop Walk:	\$659.14
Choir:	\$1,934.14

March 22 is the NAIC **Sacred Music Concert** to learn about different traditions at 4 pm at the UU Church. Contact Meta, Judie Bryant, or Kathy Boss if you have a suggestion for performers.

April 13 begins the NAIC book group reading **Beyond Religion** by the Dalai Lama. The first session is in person at the Nashua Library and April 20 and 27 will be on Zoom, all 7-8 pm. Allison will send a Google sign-up sheet.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints invites you to a Messiah Sing on Good Friday.

Nonny says one more person is needed at in-person meetings of the Cultural Connections Committee when voting. Meta will check the CCC by-laws. See Meta if you are interested.

Habitat For Humanity has formed a Circle of Faith Network so look for an upcoming email soon about it. Karl and Kim Hester know an individual who would like to help with targeted collections and gifts for immigrants. Also, to support needs of local immigrants, contact the NH Immigrant Mutual Aid Fund.

The UU Church and Main Street United Methodist Church are sponsoring a talk on Countering Christian Nationalism on February 9 at 6:30 pm at the UU Church. Guest Speakers will be Lisa Beaudoin from the NH Council of Churches and James McKim for the NAACP.

Mike Apfelberg announced free VITA services are beginning (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) at several sites in Nashua and Hudson for people who earn \$67,000 or less. Appointments must be made by calling 211 in Nashua. Over 1000 people were helped last year. See the flyer that was distributed.

Also, Memory Cafes are ongoing at 3 sites in Nashua. Please see the flyer.

Sarah Sanders of Tolles Street Mission announced that Morning Star Christian Bookstore is offering a Church Partnership Program with a monthly store credit or monetary donation back to your church after purchases. Congregations must fill out a Church Giveback Application. Contact Susanna Lillie at the bookstore for more information.

After the 2/2 fire and explosion at Greater Nashua Mental Health Center on 440 Amherst Street, a fundraising effort is happening. Jocelyn will send out the email from Mike explaining how to help out. The Center has alternate meeting space but employees lost all personal belongings. Also, look at the GNMHC website on how to donate, <https://gnmhc.org>.

NEXT MEETING: March 4th at Messiah Lutheran Church in Amherst with speakers from the NH Immigrant Mutual Aid Fund.

Respectfully submitted,
Jocelyn Sharp-Henning
Secretary