

NAIC Meeting Minutes, Messiah Lutheran Church, Amherst, March 4, 2026

Karl Hester welcomed everyone and invited us to their Lenten Wednesday services for the next 3 Wednesdays.

Present: John Rowntree, Past President; Glen Ring, presenter; Doris Hampton, presenter; Trevor Holt, Judith Bryant, Vice President; Mike Apfelberg, Leah Rumsey, Kathy Boss, Meta Vornehm, Treasurer; Meg Hamm, Jon Spira-Savett, Jim Jensen, Bobbie Knickerbocker, Karl Hester, Kim Hester, Allison Palm, President, Jocelyn Sharp-Henning, Secretary.

Online: Frances Ferrari, Karla Tolomeo, Tori Markiewicz, Nonny Egbuonu, Betsy Cotton.

Judie Bryant led the community conversation with the following questions:

1. Share how many generations back you need to go to find family members born in another country.
2. If you could live anywhere, where would you want to live?

Doris Hampton and Glen Ring from the NH Immigrant Mutual Aid Fund presented. The fund was formed in the spring of 2025 beginning with grants for legal consults and grew into living expenses such as food, clothes, rent, document costs, safe space for women experiencing violence, etc. for families of those detained or deported. Funds are also needed when immigrants self-deport and end up in other countries. A network of immigrant advocates is being formed around the state.

In 2025, out of 399 arrests, 209 people were deported in NH. People disappear, sometimes quietly. Citizens are arrested and detained. The Constitution is torn apart, piece by piece. Rights are ignored.

The Mutual Aid Fund is looking for referrals and works with 5 sanctuary communities in NH as well as immigrant justice allies around the State. It was suggested that referrals could also be found at community colleges, adult learning centers and recovery meetings at congregations.

The rapid response number is 978 219-7586 to report and alert. Referrals can be sent to Doris at dandmhamp38@gmail.com and Glen at nelgy19@proton.me. See the brochure handed out about information needed with a referral.

Donations can be sent anytime to <https://nimaf.betterworld.org/donate>.

NAIC Business

Treasurer's report:

Main account -	\$2187.33
Crop Walk -	659.14
Choir -	1934.14

The Sacred Music Concert is March 22, 2026 at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 4 pm. Thanks to Kathy, Judie and Meta and the UU Church for putting this together. See the link in Allison's recent email to sign up for refreshments.

Beyond Religion book event meets April 13th in person at the library and on April 20 and 27th on Zoom. There are 2 copies of the book available to borrow from Meta.

The Cultural Connection Committee is looking for more members. Their Festival is September 12 this year. The Hindu Festival of Holi is at Rivier is this Friday, March 6. Also, Handel's Messiah Sing-a-long at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints is on Good Friday, April 3, 7-9 pm.

Karl Hester announces that "Preparing for the Future" – End of Life Planning workshop is Saturday, March 14 at the Congregational Church of Amherst from 10-noon. Call 603 673-3231, x 14.

Events from United Way/Mike Apfelberg (603 882-4011):

1. Baby Shower, April 22nd, 10-5 pm, at United Way.
2. Digital Skills for Everyday Living, 4th Tuesday of each month, February-June, at the YMCA of Nashua.
3. VITA (volunteer income tax assistance) has begun at several sites in Nashua and Hudson. Call 211 for an appointment.

Our next NAIC meeting is **April 8th, the 2nd Wednesday** in April at the Church of the Good Shepherd with speakers from Community Build with Window Dressers.