

Activities



Unlimited

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday July 14, 2026

The General Meeting, held at the Midland Park Christian Reformed Church at Midland Park, New Jersey, started at 9:30 AM with social activities, and was called to order by President Gaspar Lesznik at 10:00 AM.

In the absence of The Rev. Andy Kadzban, President Gaspar Lesznik asked Winston Lau to deliver the invocation.

President's Message

- a. Gaspar Lesznik reminded the audience that there is no General Meeting in August.
- b. Gaspar Lesznik announced that the General Meeting in September will be held on September 8. Entertainment will be provided by the Ridgewood Symphony Orchestra.
- c. As a resource to our members who have lost loved ones, we have added a 'Bereavement' section on our Bulletin Board, with resources that may be helpful to those navigating such difficult circumstances.

Treasurer's Report

- a. Doug Cooper reported that no major financial events happened during the month of June. We had a very successful golf outing at the end of the month, and the Barbecue was very successful. Both events made a little money or broke even.
- b. Doug Cooper reminded everyone who has TD bank accounts to contact the bank and link their accounts to the AU Program with the bank. The bank pays AU \$10 a year for an existing account and \$25 for a new account. We collected about \$700 last year and it has been as high as \$1,000 in previous years.
- c. Doug Cooper reminded everyone to contribute to the coffee and refreshments at the General Meetings as well as to the Food Pantry.

Membership

- a. Jim Webb reported that the membership at AU is at 319, with 28 new members so far this year. Jim Webb reported that there were 6 new members in June:
 - Joseph McKay
 - Gregory Cunningham
 - Hani Copti
 - Michael Racano
 - James Dent
 - Jim Lewis
- a. Jim Webb introduced 8 new members:
 - Jim Lewis
 - Greg Cunningham
 - Leo Donnelly
 - Doug Padla
 - Joe Mckay
 - Hani Copti
 - Frank Manzi
 - Michael Racano
- b. Gaspar Lesznik encouraged the new members to explore the 23 clubs we have in AU and get involved.
- c. Jim Webb mentioned that the Yankee game on July 21, 2026 was sold out with 40 participants.

Cares and Concerns

- a. John Toth led the group in a brain teaser riddle.
- b. John Toth asked members in attendance who have their birthdays in July. They were:
 - Peter Bieszard
 - Charles Kelly
 - Dick Stanton
 - Herman Osofsky
 - David Meinhard

They were all treated with birthday cakes and candles, and John Toth led the group in the singing of Happy Birthday.

- c. The Cares and Concerns Committee sent out 3 Get well cards, 1 Thank You card, and 2 Condolence Cards. One Condolence Card went to Rick Bogdan upon the passing of his partner Sheri Sherer. The other one went to the family of Terri Coyle who was the widow of our former member Joe Coyle.

AU Restructuring

- a. Gaspar Lesznik announced that AU, at the request of the Wyckoff Reformed Church (WRC) of which we are a part, is in the process of restructuring into an entity separate from the WRC because our membership has grown in excess of 300. AU was started 47 years ago by four members of the WRC who had lost their spouses. This restructuring is more a legal exercise and should have minimal impact to the way we operate. We are sharing this information with the membership today, with more information coming in August and September, leading up to a vote during our October General Meeting. We anticipate the transition to take place on January 1, 2027.

Events

- a. Jack Warner reminded everyone that the October General Meeting is at The Brick House on October 13 with a buffet breakfast and entertainment by the Barbershop Quartet, a part of The Blue Chip Chorus. He asked everyone to reserve the date, with more information forthcoming.
- b. Jack Warner announced the formation of the Music Lovers Club with its inaugural session in February 2027. The Club will be headed by Jim McKeown, and it is for people who want to learn about and enjoy great music. A survey will be sent out to the membership soliciting their interest in joining the Club and the category of music they are interested in.

Club Activities

- a. Marc Bernhardt talked about the upcoming meeting of the Science Club next Tuesday at 1 PM at the VFW. They will be discussing human behavior and investing – why he is always buying high and selling low?
- b. Jim Webb announced a golf tournament at the Farmstead on September 25. Breakfast and lunch are included. More information will be forthcoming. Please reserve the date if you are interested in participating.
- c. Steven Joern announced the meeting of the History Club on July 28 at the VFW. Brian Scanlon will have a presentation on the 750-bed immigrant hospital on Ellis Island. Brian was the CEO at a privately-held medical and scientific publishing company who recently returned to journalism. He was also the Mayor of Wyckoff. He has articles published in the Smithsonian Magazine, The New York Times, America, and The Record. We are looking forward to a very interesting presentation, and all are welcome.
- d. Peter Bieszard announced the meeting of the Book Club at 10 AM on July 22 at the WRC. The books for discussion are Shadow Dodgers and One Man.
- e. Walter Widmer announced the Bocce Club meets on Monday and Friday at 10 AM at the Ramsey Courts on East Oak Street, Ramsey.

TRIPS AND TOURS

- a. Fall Social will be at the Upper Ridgewood Tennis Club on September 17 with more information to follow.
- b. The Annual Christmas Dinner Dance will be held on December 7 at the Indian Trail Club in Franklin Lakes.

Attendance

Seventy-four (74) members were in attendance.

Guest Speaker

The guest speaker was Patricia Loud from AARP who talked about Technology for Aging in Place:

- a. Smart Home Basics
 - 1. The presentation covered the benefits of smart devices, including automation, energy savings, and convenience.
 - 2. Various smart home devices were discussed, including Amazon Echo, Google Nest, and Apple HomePod.
- b. Setting Up Smart Home Devices
 - 1. The presentation provided step-by-step instructions on setting up smart home devices, including smart plugs, light bulbs, and thermostats.
 - 2. The importance of a strong WI-FI connection and the use of apps for device setup was emphasized.
 - 3. A video was shown to illustrate how to connect and control smart home devices using Alexa from Amazon.
- c. Smartphone features and Security Tips
 - 1. The presentation covered smartphone features, including emergency contacts, medication reminders, and location sharing.
 - 2. Security tips were provided, including the importance of selecting WPA2 for WI-FI security and giving the network an obscure name.
 - 3. The use of smart watches, fitness trackers, smart rings, and health monitors was discussed, along with their benefits for aging in place.

The General Meeting concluded at 11:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Winston Lau', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Winston Lau
Secretary