

FCC Board Meeting
First Congregational Church of Minnesota, United Church of Christ
Thursday, April 18, 2024
7:00 – 8:30 pm
Meeting on Zoom

Minutes

Attendance: Linda Valerian, Jane McBride, Chris Bohnhoff, Carl Dyar, Hikaru Peterson, Xan Laurence, Jean Anderson, Paul Fate, Kris Felbeck

Absence: Mary Byers, Tom von Sternberg

1. Opening – Linda
2. Check in with each other.
3. Approve minutes from March meeting.
Approved
Motion Xan, Second Carl
4. Approve Letter of Support for Schanan Harris for ordination. (See letter in drop box)
Approve
Motion Kris, Second Hikaru
5. Authorize Jean Chagnon to apply for a construction grant to restore the Tiffany Window and large sanctuary stained-glass window in the 2024 large grant cycle, and to commit matching funds for the grant from the remaining capital campaign funds. (See “preservation overview background” document)
Linda and Jane reviewed our conversation from last meeting. Decision has been made to focus on windows, not HVAC. See Jean’s report. In focusing on the windows, we are not necessarily committing to a 2025 paint grant application and to a delay in seeking funding for HVAC documents.. There’s a lot of moving parts. There’s a number of possible funding sources for HVAC. Additionally, the grant would not exceed our ability to provide the matching funds.
Approved
Move: Xan Second: Hikaru
6. Sabbatical planning report
The four way covenant with Chris has been approved by the Conference and Plymouth. A sabbatical task force has met (Paul Snyder, Mary Korsmo, Sandy Johnson, Kris Felbeck, Linda Valerian, Chris Bohnhoff and Jane McBride) to discuss what sabbatical for the congregation might look like.
The task force
 - *Talked about some stressors that the congregation is experiencing.*
 - *Identified healthy elements that we have already integrated – story telling, children in front, noticing Grind culture.*
 - *Discussed transitions.**The task force will be offering two sets of events:*

- *Three special Sunday worship services, one each in May, June and July, The services will be led by lay leaders and include Chris and Byron and other congregational members. The services will address how we celebrate God in ourselves and in each other; and will attempt to increase our connections.*
- *Wednesday night gatherings in June through August. Meeting midweek will allow people who might be gone on the weekend to stay connected to the community. Some of the weekday events will be at the church, some at facilities where our elders live and some in a park or other public place. We plan to have informal meal from 6 – 6:30, then an activity*

There will be communications about these events in the Chimes, e-news, bulletin and website. Additionally, with the goal of keeping the idea of sabbatical in front of the congregation during Jane's absence, the task force will be including a short inspirational quote about Sabbath and sabbatical in the weekly communications.

What do we want to call the Wednesday evening event? Some suggestions were made, but no final decision reached.

Jane sought approval for some professional expenses during her sabbatical. Board gave approval without a formal vote.

7. Preparation for Board retreat. Please read the article "How Boards Plan" <https://www.congregationalconsulting.org/how-boards-plan/>

Jane felt it identified important issues and good examples of appropriate goals.

We have the three overarching goals that we will be working with for the next 2 – 4 years.

The goal of the retreat is to have the right sized goals with specific ways to measure.

Retreat will be in person at the church. We should start thinking about sub-goals.

Jane will send a summary of what we have accomplished this past year.

How can we elicit feedback more effectively from congregation? Perhaps next year each Board member could approach one or two members and "pick their brains" for a few minutes. We can still issue a general invitation to the entire congregation, but this would be a way to get some specifics. .

8. Reports and action – Discuss only as needed:
May Board meeting will include reports by Board members who visited Committees and Work Groups.
 - Treasurer and Finance Committee
 - COVID working group
 - Building Committee *Greg H sent an information letter about the neighborhood house that burned. Quite possibly moot (highly unlikely that we can afford to buy the building, much less whether the city would allow it be razed for a parking lot), but he has also written to other neighbors about possibly using some of their existing parking lots on Sunday morning.*
 - Preservation Projects
 - Building Use group
 - Planned Giving group
 - Principal Minister

- Personnel Committee
- Reports on ministry team visits

9. Closing

April planning retreat: Saturday, April 20, 2024, 1:00-3:30PM

Next board meeting: Thursday, May 16, 2024, 7:00-8:30PM