

Attendance: Allegra, Jean, Kris, Paul, Jeff, Jane, Rob
Thursday, September 18, 2025 at 7PM
Minutes recorded by Allegra in Xan's absence

FCC Board Meeting
First Congregational Church of Minnesota, United Church of Christ
Thursday, September 18, 2025, 7:00 – 8:30 pm
Agenda

1. Opening provided by Mary Byers and read by Linda Valerian
2. Minutes approved from August meeting
3. Creating our mission statement: *Board reviewed and discussed the finalized statement created by Allegra, Jane, and Linda, with feedback also from Alice Worden.*
 - a. Discussion focused on positive reactions to the word “cultivating” which exhibits care, the streamlined and concise nature without compromising meaning, clarity in identity, simplicity in metaphor, and the opportunity to lend itself toward visual graphics.
 - b. Discussion of “Gather, listen, speak act” given survey responses that this was a beloved phrase to many. Ways to acknowledge change and that the phrases serve different purposes. No defined next steps for how it might be used / retired with this new mission statement, but the board is taking this to heart.
 - c. Board vote to approve the mission statement passed unanimously.
4. Our 2025-2026 Program Goals: *Review Jane's summary of where we are with each of our goals. Keeping in mind our new mission statement, are there ways we need to amend our 2025-2026 program goals to better reflect our mission statement? If so, in what ways or directions?* Discussion on topics during the meeting were as follows:
 - a. Positive reaction to setting strategic goals that span multiple years
 - b. Consideration around balancing specificity with flexibility
 - c. Questions around the best way to measure growing participation in the life of the church, membership being one aspect
 - d. Desire to voice some level of this document in messaging to the congregation as a way to infuse energy and encourage members within the stewardship campaign
 - e. Idea to add HVAC work into report as a way of showing the church's intentional decisions on supporting the church, with immense gratitude for the integrity and level of work that those who supported this discovery contributed
5. Stewardship Campaign Planning: *Review our Stewardship Process (Dropbox). In what ways are you willing to participate in our Stewardship Campaign – providing a*

Stewardship Moment during our church service, writing thank-you notes to those who have pledged, following up on contacts?

- a. Idea to mention recent gifts from planned giving, board members volunteered to speak as part of the stewardship campaign
6. FCC's 175 Anniversary (November 2026): *Why is it important to celebrate our anniversary? What are the underlying values and motivations for celebrating our anniversary? What are your ideas about who we might invite to participate in a task force to plan for this?*
- a. Exciting to celebrate the history and impact of the church, impressive accomplishment of a small church having lasted this long, idea of celebratory swag (somewhat in jest),
 - b. Idea to share the rich history of our church and its people, both the beautiful and conflicting items, revisiting our archives and displaying who we are - for people new to the church and people who have been long attending to learn
 - c. Opportunity to grow in maintenance / organization of the archives to support our ability to tell our own story with greater depth
 - d. Goal to learn from UBC's celebration and having a year of events beginning in November
7. Nominations Committee: *The Nominations Committee will meet this month to begin the process of identifying candidates interested in serving on the Board, and to present these candidates to be approved by the congregation at the Annual Meeting. In tandem with this effort, Jane and Linda would like to begin a yearly practice of engaging in reflection with every Board member (whether or not you are finishing your term). What about your Board service is rewarding, or challenging? What are you learning? Are your gifts being used in the way you want?*
- a. Group has not yet met, but planning is in progress.
8. Reports– Discuss only as needed:
- Treasurer and Finance Committee
 - Building Committee – *HVAC written report from Paul Fate*
 - Building Use Group/Flourish – *Report on preparing spaces for SE Seniors; actions related to the basement kitchen area and Community Kitchen*
 - Personnel Committee
 - Preservation Projects
 - Joint UBC/FCC Task Force – *Written report from Richard Lanford*
 - Vinery Team
 - Principal Minister – *Recordkeeping policies*

9. Closing provided from Mary Byers and read by Linda Valerian

Next Board meeting: October 16, 2025, 7:00-8:30PM