

FCC Board Meeting
First Congregational Church of Minnesota, United Church of Christ
Thursday, October 16, 2025, 7:00 – 8:30 pm
Minutes

1. Opening: Linda
2. The minutes from September meeting were approved.
3. Budget Planning and Approval of 2026 Budget:

The Treasurer and the Board discussed the 2026 budget proposal from the Treasurer and Finance Committee, highlighting changes to income and expenditure. Income is affected negatively by the loss of two substantial pledging units due to the deaths of members; new expenditures have been added in the form of accounting expenses and support for the Neon campus ministry. The loss of income will be made up through gradual withdrawal of bequest money from the estates of the deceased members, tapering off over the next few years.

The Repairs line items have been removed from the general budget and will be handled separately.

The suggested budget increase for 2026 is 3%, which will cover the projected 2.7% cost of living adjustment for staff and other anticipated increases in expenses such as building maintenance.

The motion to accept the 2026 budget as presented by the Treasurer and the Finance Committee was moved by Xan, seconded by Jeff, and passed unanimously.

4. 2025-2026 Program Goals:

The program goals for 2025-2026 are an updated version of the 2024-2025 goals, as accomplishments over the past year led to new developments.

The communications plan goals included creating a new position of Communications and Administrative Lead and formulating a new mission statement, both of which we have done in 2025. Goals for 2026 include developing a new communication plan and logo and refreshing the Chimes newsletter.

The building use goals accomplished in 2025 included welcoming new tenants into refreshed office spaces, installing an electronic entry system, reorganizing the basement area, and acquiring new kitchen appliances. We should achieve our goal of \$12,500 in rental income by the end of 2025. Goals for 2026 include improving the HVAC system, continuing to explore partnerships with potential tenants, and achieving a goal of \$16,000 in rental income.

The community relationship goals accomplished in 2025 included welcoming nine new members in the 2024-2025 years, along with others who did not become formal members but who are active participants. Participation rather than membership was recognized as an important concept in terms of how we are creating a community of belonging. Those who attend only briefly, for

example, college students, still bring their gifts to the church while they are with us. Goals for 2026 include accepting another two dozen members or participants to the congregation, creating closer relationships with our neighbors on campus, such as Neon, and developing ways of measuring our engagement with the community.

The motion to accept the revised goals for 2025-2026 was moved by Allegra, seconded by Kris, and unanimously approved.

5. Stewardship Campaign Planning:

The Board reviewed and approved the stewardship letter written by Jane, which will go out to the members of the congregation over our signatures.

Stewardship moments will be offered at the next four services by Kris, Paul, Jean, and Allegra.

6. FCC's 175 Anniversary (November 2026):

Planning for a 175th anniversary celebration will need a committee and leadership. A small task force of Jane, Linda, and Jeff will work on an outline of what tasks are involved and a timeline for tracking them and recruit other members to form a working group. UBC recently celebrated their 175th anniversary and will be a valuable source of information.

7. Nominations Committee: Linda, Jane, and Jean are working on nominations for the Board and standing committees for the upcoming year. Committee chairs will need to get input from their members as to who is staying or moving on, and report to the nominating committee.

8. Reports:

Vinery Team – *Review the proposal from the Vinery team regarding our ongoing campus ministry efforts* – this was deferred to the November meeting.

9. Closing: Linda

Next Board meeting: November 20, 2025, 7:00-8:30PM