

FCC Board Meeting
First Congregational Church of Minnesota, United Church of Christ
Thursday, November 20, 2025, 7:00 – 8:30 pm
Minutes

In attendance: Mary Byers, Rob Cooper, Kris Felbeck, Maggie George (guest from Vinery task force), Xan Laurence (Clerk), Jane McBride, Allegra Montanari, Jeff Peterson, Paul Snyder, Linda Valerian.

1. **Opening --** Linda
2. **Approve minutes from October meeting (in Dropbox)** – Allegra/Kris/approved.
3. **Vinery Task Force** – Maggie George reported from the Vinery Task Force. The two-year period of the Vinery Project comes to an end this year. The Task Force participated in listening sessions with the University of Minnesota campus ministry communities during the first year, teaming up with two other ministries in the Vinery Project and visiting their locations during the project. The second year was devoted to choosing a University of Minnesota campus ministry organization and establishing a connection. The choice was a Methodist campus organization called Neon. Of 30+ campus ministries at the University of Minnesota, only 3 are LGBTQ+ friendly; Neon is one. We participated in their welcome picnic for new U students and attended two storytelling sessions: “Trans stories are sacred”, and “Immigrant stories are sacred”. We are discussing how to engage further, including involvement of ministry teams such as Hospitality and Engagement and Faith Formation. Maggie was asked what the project needs from the Board now as it winds up. She responded that the task force would appreciate feedback and the blessing of the next chapter of the work. The Board approved the sunseting of the Vinery project and the new direction of the ministry.
4. **Nominations Committee** – The nominating committee presented the slate of nominees to be approved at the Annual Meeting:

Slate of Nominees

Those with a * beside their name are being elected at this meeting

Officers of the Board

*Linda Valerian, Moderator	third one-year term, serving through 2026
Kris Felbeck, Treasurer	first two-year term, serving through 2026
*Xan Laurence, Clerk	first two-year term, serving through 2027

At-Large Members of the Board

Jean Anderson	first three-year term, serving through 2026
*Allegra Montanari	completing another person’s term, serving through 2026
Rob Cooper	first three-year term, serving through 2027
Jeff Peterson	first three-year term, serving through 2027
*Paul Snyder	first three-year term, serving through 2028
*Joy Gullikson	first three-year term, serving through 2028

(Note: Jeff Peterson has agreed to serve as moderator, if elected, beginning in 2027, and will begin to prepare to take on this role.)

Mary Byers and Kathy Hansen will be recognized for their service and thanked as they leave their positions.

Motion to approve the slate of nominees: Kris/Mary/approved.

- 5. Receive the Personnel Committee's report on the Principal Minister's Annual Review –** Allegra reported from the Personnel Committee, highlighting the findings from interviews which were held between June and September with eleven individual members of First Church, members of ministry teams, and staff. The Board received the report with thanks to Allegra and the Personnel Committee, which also includes Bill Lindberg and Hikaru Peterson.
- 6. Discuss and approve the 2025 Annual Meeting agenda (in Dropbox) –** The Board approved the agenda, with the addition of a high-level discussion regarding planning for the security of the church given the current political and societal situation.
- 7. Stewardship Campaign Planning –** As of the meeting date, only 13 pledges were outstanding. Mary, Paul, and Linda volunteered to write thank you notes to all who pledged for next year.
- 8. FCC's 175 Anniversary (November 2026) –** The Board approved the appointment Cynthia Hendricks as the FCC 175th Anniversary Task Force Chair, and Jeff Peterson as Board Liaison, and discussed whether a capital campaign might mesh well with the 175th Anniversary. Determining what our future needs are, how they relate to our vision and goals, and what it would cost to fulfill those needs would give an idea of a possible goal for a capital campaign.
- 9. Reports– Discuss only as needed:**
 - **Building Use Group/Flourish –** \$5,000 was approved for new flooring and improvements to the bathroom in the upstairs northeast corner room, for which we have a new tenant.
- 10. Closing:** Linda. Kris volunteered to do opening and closing for December.

Next Board meeting: Thursday, December 18, 2026, 7:00-8:30PM