

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

In attendance: Jean Anderson, Mary Byers, Rob Cooper, Kris Felbeck, Xan Laurence (Clerk), Jane McBride, Allegra Montanari, Jeff Peterson, Linda Valerian.

1. **Opening** – Kris gave a personal reflection.
2. **Check in** with each other.
3. **Approve minutes from November Board Meeting and Annual Meeting (also in Dropbox) – Motion to approve:** After it was noted that Kris’s name needs to be added to the list of attendees, Allegra/Mary/approved. (The correction has been made to the document in Dropbox.)
4. **Adopt special offering calendar for 2026** – Jane reviewed the spreadsheet showing First Church’s contributions from the last two years to the various organizations designated for monthly special offerings. She highlighted the organizations that are arms of the UCC and described the focus of their missions and gave a brief overview of the other organizations on the list. The Board discussed how the recipients of the offerings can be made more visible to the members so that it is clear what they are contributing to. Suggestions offered: better integrating the website pages that relate to giving; having someone speak about that month’s recipient at a service; send an email each month, separately from First Notes, highlighting the recipient and its mission.
5. **Safety Planning** – The Board further discussed the topic originally raised at the Annual Meeting of how to make the church be more secure and yet continue to be welcoming. A new task force comprising Pastor Jane, Maggie George, Greg Hubinger, Bill Lindberg, and Scott Williams began discussions. The process will begin with research into what other congregations have done to improve their security. Creating plans for training and making decisions on what equipment and other resources are needed for First Church will also be researched and discussed by the task force before soliciting feedback from the congregation.
6. **Appoint committee members and chairs, fill Board-appointed positions (list in Dropbox) –** Unanimous approval by show of hands. Names may be updated at future meetings.
7. **Resolution setting Jane’s housing allowance – Motion to approve:** Xan/Jeff/approved.
8. **UBC/FCC Task Force** – Linda is a member of this task force, along with Pastor Jane, UBC’s Pastor Doug Donley, congregation President Jean Lubke, and others from First Church and UBC. The task force has been meeting for the past year with a goal of getting to know each other’s congregations, finding ways to work together toward shared goals and sharing resources. Future collaborations are planned. On January 18, 2026, the UBC congregation will worship at First Church, with special music from their bell choir and a presentation at Second Hour. On February 15, 2026, First Church’s congregation will worship with UBC and contribute similarly. The Board discussed how to ensure that members will be able to attend, given winter weather conditions and parking issues, and how to inform potential visitors that services will not be held

at First Church on February 15. The Board approved the move of the worship service to UBC on February 15 unanimously by a show of hands.

9. **Gratitude for outgoing Board members** – Mary Byers. The Board shared their appreciation of Mary’s contributions and wished her well.

10. **Reports and action – Discuss only as needed --**

- Principal Minister – Jane talked about an event called Palm Sunday Path, which is a rally at the Capitol in support of progressive Christian values and in protest of white nationalist Christian values. The rally will take place on Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026. The plan for First Church at present is to cancel our regular Sunday morning worship and instead meet at First Church for lunch and a time of spiritual preparation, then for those who wish to attend the rally at the Capitol. It was suggested that those who did not attend the rally could stay behind at FCC and hold a prayer vigil. These changes to our normal worship would require an explanation and preparation for the congregation, which would be integrated into Lenten worship. The Board approved the cancellation of the regular Sunday morning service on March 29 unanimously by a show of hands.

11. **Closing** – Kris offered a prayer.

**Next Board meeting: Thursday, January 15, 2026, 6:30-8:30PM (in person/hybrid)** – Note earlier time, and that this meeting includes a potluck.

**Joint Board and Justice League meeting: February 10, 2026, 7:00PM (in person/ hybrid as needed)**