

**FCC Board Meeting**  
**First Congregational Church of Minnesota, United Church of Christ**  
**Thursday, May 21, 7:00 – 8:30 pm**

**Minutes**

Attending: Linda Valerian (Moderator), Jane McBride (Pastor), Kris Felbeck (Treasurer), Paul Snyder, Joy Gullikson, Rob Cooper; absent, Allegra Montanari and Jeff Petersen; Xan Laurence (Clerk), recording

**Opening** – Joy Gullikson read Wendell Berry’s The Peace of Wild Things

**Approve minutes from Board retreat** – Kris moved, Joy seconded; approved.

**Capital Campaign Planning**

Jane spoke about the planning committee’s work so far: appointing a leadership group for the capital campaign, proposing a timeline for the campaign, and entering into a contract with The James Company.

The committee consists of Jeff, Joy, Kris, Paul, and Jane. The timeline is tight as we would like the campaign to coincide with the fall Stewardship campaign.

The Board endorsed the proposal to the James Company.

Chart from Capital Campaign report:

<b>PHASE 1</b> <b>Project(s) Planning</b>	<b>PHASE 2</b> <b>Pre-Campaign Planning</b> <b>2-3 Months</b>	<b>PHASE 3</b> <b>Conduct Campaign</b> <b>3 Months</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Engage planning leaders</li><li>• Clarify project(s)</li><li>• Engage architect, if needed</li><li>• Determine range of costs</li><li>• Prepare text introducing project(s) and ministry impact</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consensus Building Process (pg. 4)</li><li>• Board/congregation approves campaign</li><li>• Recruit additional leadership</li><li>• Finalize case for support</li><li>• Set proposed financial goal</li><li>• Prepare timeline</li><li>• Prepare campaign resources</li><li>• Prepare communication plan</li><li>• Plan campaign kick-off</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kickoff</li><li>• Announce campaign objectives, goal(s), timeline</li><li>• Initiate church-wide communication plan</li><li>• Invite lead gifts</li><li>• Announce progress to goal</li><li>• Invite congregational gifts</li></ul>

We are currently in Phase 1. Phase 2 will cover the period of June to August; Phase 3 will cover September to November. Some questions were raised: do we need the consensus building process? The consultants can give us feedback about that. Should we move “invite lead gifts” to Phase 2 to function as “seed corn” to encourage giving. Kris coined a phrase to describe the campaign as “a collective action of hope.”

The Board affirmed the committee membership and the timeline.

## **Capital Campaign – Update on possible building projects.**

Paul reviewed the list of projects discussed at the Board retreat in April:

1. Painting of the sanctuary can be funded from other sources than the Capital Campaign, such as an internal loan.
2. Roof repairs may cost more than the projected \$85K-\$150K; one section of the roof needs new decking, which could add \$5K-\$10K to the cost (\$90K-\$160K). The Minnesota Historical Society may fund this project at 80%, according to Jean Chagnon. Paul reported that one contractor had said that the oldest part of the roof should be reshingled as soon as possible. Two companies recommended the same product, while a third recommended a different type, which has a 50-year warranty and is guaranteed to withstand up to 165 mile-per-hour winds. The material would need to match the parts of the roof that are not being replaced.
3. The HVAC system needs to be upgraded, but that will not be part of the campaign.
4. The cost for the redesign of the 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. entrance has yet to be determined; estimates are being gathered. There is the potential for a 1:1 matching grant from the National Fund for Sacred Places.
5. A new kitchen range hood could cost \$55K or more, and other potential costs such as electrical upgrades are unknown.
6. The arched windows in the sanctuary are unique and integrated into the structure of the building; replacing them would be complicated and expensive. We could apply for a grant from the Minnesota Historical Society, but we would have to wait until the next grant cycle. The MNHS will only allow one application at a time, so we would need to choose which repair to apply for first, the roof or the windows.

The James Company will help us determine how much we can expect to raise in the Capital Campaign. We will present a list of our priorities to the congregation as part of the introduction to the campaign. Pledges will be collected over a period of three years, which will influence cash flow for projects that are begun before the campaign is over. Loans, internal and external, will probably be needed.

**Capital Campaign – One-time Ministry-Related Funds:** Jane asked for ideas. During our most recent capital campaign, we used part of the funds collected to donate to a cause outside of the church, which evolved into the creation of our Reparations Fund. The discussion identified some ways that one-time ministry-related funds could be used externally or internally to enhance our ministry. Additional discussion is necessary before decisions can be agreed upon.

**Logo review and redesign planning:** Jane presented a request for feedback on the purpose, outcome, and process of creating a new logo. The Board shared their feelings about the current logo: do we want to keep a reference to the steeple/church architecture, or find some other image entirely? It was suggested that we solicit ideas from the congregation, not only

for logo design but for people who have a graphic design background who might like to be involved in work on the new logo. Having a new logo ready for the 175th Anniversary celebration kickoff would be ideal, if possible. The Board approved Jane's process.

**175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Task Force:** Jane updated the Board on the work of the task force. The plan is to begin with an event on November 15, 2026, being the closest Sunday to the actual anniversary, which is November 16. The observance of the anniversary will last for six months, ending with the largest celebration on May 16, 2027. Guests of special importance to the history of the church will be invited.

The Task Force will work on their assignments and develop a budget for the Board to approve. Other teams and work groups will also be tasked with contributing to the planning and execution of the celebration as needed. It is hoped that the congregation will want to be involved, and to learn about the church's identity and history and its contributions to life in Minnesota and beyond.

The proposed timeline for events observing the anniversary:

<b>OPENING:</b>	Founding Day – Sunday, November 15 Worship and potluck meal
<b>January 2027:</b>	Variety Show
<b>February 2027:</b>	Historical 2nd Hour(s) Roll out history timeline exhibit Archives Tour for church members
<b>March 2027:</b>	Easter - March 28
<b>April 2027:</b>	Intergenerational Storytelling Dinner(s)
<b>May 2027:</b>	Doors Open Minneapolis OR our own open house (organ recital, tours, archival exhibits)
<b>CULMINATING</b>	Sunday, May 16 — worship, catered meal, invite special guests – former pastors/ Lilly residents/ building users/ officials/ news, new history is presented

**Closing** – Joy Gullikson read a verse from the song “Loch Lomond.” Xan will present the closing at the June meeting.

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