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

Present: Linda Valerian (Moderator), Kris Felbeck (Treasurer), Jean Anderson, Joy Gullikson, Allegra Montanari, Jeff Peterson, Paul Snyder, Xan Laurence (Clerk), recording
Absent: Jane McBride (Pastor), Rob Cooper

**1. Approve minutes** – The minutes from the June Board meeting were approved by acclamation.

**2. Form Nominating Committee** – Allegra volunteered to work with Jane and Linda on nominations for officers, Board members, and committees, to be presented at the December meeting. Allegra asked if there is a record of who historically has served on the Board and when their term was. Linda will work with Jane to compile a list of former Board members, and will contact current Board members whose terms are ending to find out their plans for the coming year.

**3. 1-to-1 Conversations** – Linda led a discussion on the 1-to-1 conversations the Board has been having with members of the congregation, addressing these questions:

- Why do we engage in these conversations?
- What have we learned from these conversations?
- How will this inform our work going forward?

The general feeling was that the conversations helped to make connections with members that we might not otherwise know well, that by making these connections we let them know that they are valuable, and we have found that people are often happy to be asked to participate and contribute in some way to the life of the church. In addition, engaging in these conversations is a way to inform policy decisions and communicate policy decisions. The Board will continue with the conversations and reflect on the results at the September meeting.

**4. 175th Anniversary Task Force** – Linda and Jeff updated the Board on the progress of the Task Force. The calendar of events is not yet finalized, but of what has been determined, the initial introduction will take place at our Community Night, aka Baked Potato Night, event on September 16th to raise awareness of the anniversary celebrations coming up. In October there will be exhibits from the Archives on view. In November the Capital Campaign will be introduced. The Task Force will be gathering stories of the history of the church from anyone who would like to share one. November 15th is the official Founding Day celebration, being the closest Sunday to the actual anniversary date of November 16; there will be a meal after the service. Pledges for the Capital Campaign will also be collected that day. After that there will be monthly activities – an intergenerational storytelling event, and others. The culmination will be in May 2027 with an open house, to which we will invite past members, elected officials, etc.

There will be people working on documenting the events on audio and video, and the Worship Team will work on integrating aspects of the anniversary celebrations into worship services.

**5. Finance Committee** – An amendment to the proposal from the Finance Committee to include funds for the archive room project and to address the issue of water in the basement wall was presented by Kris Felbeck.

**Motion:** Kris Felbeck moved to approve the five capital projects as identified in the Proposal from the Finance Committee:

- Roofing of 80% of the roof
- Painting of the sanctuary and gathering hall
- Assorted HVAC projects
- Archive projects
- Repair of the basement lower stairs wall

Funding for these projects will come from a combination of the church's financial resources and a loan/line of credit of up to $300,000 from the Cornerstone Fund. The Board authorizes the Moderator and Treasurer to pursue an application for a Cornerstone loan.

Jeff Peterson seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

**6. Archives Planning** – The Board was asked to approve a modification to the planned expenditures for the work on the Archives Room An updated spreadsheet was submitted to the Board with the line items for photo printing/enlarging/mounting, misc. display costs/supplies, and photographer and videographer (labor) were removed and folded into the Capital Campaign budget. This subtracted $2,500 from the expenses, bringing the total to $9,100 from $11,600. The budgeted expenditures as amended were approved by acclamation. The question of additional funds for a laptop to access digital materials was raised and will be addressed.

**7. Capital Campaign and Building Committee** – Jeff updated the Board on the plans for the Capital Campaign. The Capital Campaign committee – Kris Felbeck, Joy Gullikson, Jeff Peterson, Paul Snyder, and Jane McBride, meet weekly with the James Company, our consultants for the campaign. The Capital Campaign concept will be introduced after the annual Stewardship Campaign, emphasizing that these are two different requests for pledges. A packet of information will be given to the congregation on November 1, to be returned on November 15 with a pledge made "after careful consideration." Members of the Board, the Finance Committee, and generous past donors will be asked to be pacesetters, pre-pledging an amount that will encourage donations from the congregation. A logo has been created, with the slogan "Open Doors" – it depicts the arch of the entryway with rainbow colors and a subscript that says "175 Years and Beyond".

**8. Building Committee report** – The painting of the sanctuary is underway, with the scaffolding set up. The estimated time for painting the sanctuary is 6 to 8 weeks, followed by 1 to 2 weeks for the Gathering Hall. Scott Williams will be taking over from Paul Snyder on the Building Committee, with Greg Hubinger as backup. Scott met with a representative from Garlock French the morning of August 20. A question was asked about access to the bathrooms during the painting of the Gathering Hall. This will have to be addressed. Another question addressed whether the painting of the Gathering Hall would be finished by the election on November 3, a necessity as the Hall is a polling place and any change that needed to be made would require giving weeks of notice to the election authorities. The estimated timeline would indicate that the project would be finished in late October. The roofing project is waiting for a historic permit from the city of Minneapolis. The HVAC improvement project needs a variance for the placement of the air intake. The resolution of this issue is uncertain. On other projects, MacDonald and Mack have been authorized to submit an estimate on the improvements to the 8th Avenue entrance; there has been no response as of the Board meeting date. The Building Committee will meet the week after the Board meeting and will discuss the archive space proposal and the electrical work needed, which may intersect with another needed electrical modification.

Allegra closed with a personal reflection.

Jeff Petersen will open and close the September meeting.

**Next Board meeting: Thursday, September 17, 2026, 7:00-8:30PM**

*Prepared by Xan Laurence (Clerk)*