FCC Board Meeting
First Congregational Church of Minnesota, United Church of Christ
Thursday, September 17, 7:00 – 8:30 pm
Minutes

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

1. Opening – Jeff Peterson read a 1931 excerpt from First Church's history by Guy Stanton Ford.

2. Approve minutes from August Board meeting – corrections: Allegra Montanari was present, Rob Cooper awas absent. Allegra moved to approve the corrected minutes, Rob seconded the motion, the Board approved.

3. Stewardship Campaign and Capital Campaign Planning:
The Board reviewed and approved the campaign project list and priorities recommended by the Building Committee.

    - Currently in process: complete painting, roof repair, and HVAC work
    - Top priorities:
        - Replace the large arched windows, which are load bearing
        - Remedy the moisture problem in basement
        - Refurbish the archive space. Some of the financing for this will come from the Capital Campaign
    - Next level recommendations:
        - Replace the gas range in kitchen with an electric one, which would cost $65,000-$80,000.
        - Reconstruct the 8th Ave. entry. The projected cost is $55,000-$300,000.
    - Other projects:
        - Upgrade the men's bathroom in the basement
        - Reupholster the chairs used in the Gathering Hall
    - Not mentioned in the Building Committee document, but raised at the meeting:
        - Address the need for maintaining the organ

Rob Cooper moved to approve the project report, Jean Anderson seconded; the Board approved.

4. The Board discussed the results of the survey regarding tithing a contribution from the Capital Campaign either to a community-based project or to the arts initiative. Of the responses to the survey, 40% chose No Tithe, 24% chose a split between the two options, 16% chose a contribution to the arts initiative only, 3% chose a contribution to a community-based project only, and 2% (1 response) had another proposal. It was remarked on that many were surprised that the largest percentage of respondents favored no tithe at all, and the reasoning was that the church is already contributing to the community by opening its doors to organizations like the Community Kitchen, Southeast

Play Group, and others. The discussion brought up the point that at present we do not know how much money the Capital Campaign will raise, making it difficult to determine the percentage amount to allocate. Also, given that the need to use the funds raised to pay off a loan or line of credit is the priority, we would need to determine where in the process that percentage would be set aside. Jane proposed that, instead of a percentage, we set a fixed amount of $5,000 to go to the arts initiative. Joy Gullikson moved that in lieu of a percentage amount to be tithed, First Church provide $5,000 for arts programming as part of the Capital Campaign. Rob Cooper seconded; the Board approved.

With the approval of the motion to fund the arts programming, the discussion moved to the design of the Capital Campaign informational brochure, which would need to be changed to include this change in the expenditure of Campaign funds. The brochure is structured in three parts:

Page 1 is a letter explaining how the Capital Campaign and the Annual Stewardship Campaign are being promoted together.
Page 2 explains the Annual Stewardship Campaign, which raises funds for the general operation of the church and the goal of which is adjusted yearly.
Page 3 explains the Capital Campaign, which is a three-year pledge separate from annual giving, and which proposes to raise $600,000-$700,000 for large capital expenditures. To determine this figure, The James Company, who are consultants for the campaign, use a figure of approximately 2-3 times the amount of church members' annual giving.

There was some discussion about the formatting of the brochure. Allegra had some suggestions and will send notes to Jane.

For the four Sundays leading up to the Capital Campaign Kickoff – 10/18, 10/25, 11/1, 11/8 – there will be short "Capital Campaign moments" from members of the Board. Jane will provide talking points. Rob, Jeff, and Xan volunteered; one more is needed. The dates that each will speak will be finalized later. Xan volunteered for November 1.

5. There was a brief review of the yearly budget process using a document provided by the Treasurer, Kris Felbeck. The Treasurer and the Finance Committee make budget decisions based on estimated costs and possible new categories not previously included in the budget. The draft budget is then presented to the Board for approval, then presented to the congregation, which has the final approval. The present timeline has the draft budget being presented at the October 15 Board meeting. The Board will discuss how the budget aligns with the church's mission and priorities.

6. There will be a meeting of a "pacesetters" group on October 8 at 4 pm in the sanctuary, at which the church leadership and others will be introduced to the idea of "advance gifts" to the Capital Campaign.

Closing – Jeff Peterson read another excerpt from the archives.

Next Board meeting: Thursday, October 15, 2026, 7:00-8:30PM

Xan Laurence (Clerk), recording