

(The August minutes were approved at the Church Council meeting on September 11.)

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Church Council Minutes

August 12, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

Call to Order – Called by Jodi Cowen, Moderator, @ 6:33 p.m.

Jodi Cowen, Phil Stepanski, Bill Bond (for Gary Tackes), Jennifer Dimmer, Matt Riemer, Nancy Hinneberg, Barb Bahr, Jeanne Mantsch, and Rhonda Thompson.

Opening Meditation – Rhonda read a Devotion to Encourage Fellow Council Members in Faith based on 1 Thessalonians 5:11 from Devotionals for Today.

Approval of the Council Minutes – June 2025 - Jennifer motions to approve the June minutes and Jeanne seconds the motion. The minutes are approved.

Pastor Report - Pastor Jim has been reaching out to some of the families that have stopped attending FCC in the last five years with emails and phone calls. He also provided a Pastor's Report (document).

Treasurer Financial Updates - Paid MEI \$38,000 down which was 40% of original quote. The plan is to pay a portion of the \$60,000 remaining balance upon completion and then the last of it after the inspection. We had legal help to negotiate Otis's troubleshooting/maintenance costs against a non-working elevator. Phil needs a copy of MEI's new contract to share with the insurance company. Budget planning and review will begin soon. All team leaders should look at the team budget and make recommendations for changes. The Property Team is working on the Five Year Plan for building maintenance.

Old Business

-Clerk Appointment - Barb motions to have Rhonda temporarily appointed as the clerk, appointment not to exceed a year. Nancy seconds the motion. The motion passes.

-Review of July Special Congregational Meeting Minutes - If there are any additions or corrections please mention it as soon as possible.

Additional Team Updates if needed (please see pre-reads) - (if needed)

-Phil plans to buy a new switch for the IT. It needs to be installed.

-T-Mobile was running a promotion which allows a discount for monthly service.

-Jennifer has asked each of us to sign up for serving communion one Sunday.

New Business

-Rev. Jane Anderson - June meeting updates - Most feedback has been positive from the congregation. The fact that there are new families that want to join is a good sign. Tenure for pastors is changing and needs to be considered when looking at possibilities for filling a pastoral role. This is especially true for part-time pastors as well. The average service of ministers is three to five years. There is a need for stability at First Congregational. If the consensus is to move forward, Pastor Jane's suggestion is to approach conversations like we would for profile questions. The goal is to build relationships, gather input that can be used to work toward a settled position, as well as help with a church five year plan.

- September 7 - Consider one service instead of two - Jeanne motions to have a single service in Fellowship Hall at 9 am for September. Jennifer seconds the motion. The vote passes.
- New Member Class - Will be September 14 & 21
- Christmas Tree Sale Coordinator- It has been suggested to recruit a coordinator for the Christmas Tree Sales, the largest fundraiser. Will be added to the newsletter list of needs.
- Revisit Lighthouse Youth Ministry Contribution for 2026 - still TBD
- Also consider the role of Representation - Savannah will no longer be representing FCC with Lighthouse Youth Ministry.
- Christian Education Stipend- This does not need to be decided now, but by November when we draft a budget.

Any other new business to come before the Council? Nothing.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment 8:21 p.m.

Submitted by Rhonda Thompson - Clerk