

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Spring Congregational Meeting Minutes
(Review for Approval at July 2025 Special Congregational Meeting)
June 22, 2025

Welcome and Call to Order by Jodi Cowen, Moderator at 10:19 a.m.

Attendance: 25 in-person and zero online via Zoom

Opening Prayer - Recited by everyone

Approval of Winter Congregational Meeting Minutes - Ken Matthews motioned to approve the Winter Congregational Minutes from January. Joe Mueller seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Financial Update - Phil Stepanski, Treasurer - A new section has been added to the monthly newsletter which will provide a financial snapshot. The congregation is encouraged to view this each month to monitor our financial position.

As of the end of May, our pledge income is just over \$94,000, our other income is \$37,000. Of that income we received a large anonymous donation dedicated to the Building Fund. This donation, along with the memorials from Bev Mueller and other memorials gathered over time, are now approximately \$26,000. All those related to these donations have said that the funds could be utilized in times of crisis for another purpose but have specifically earmarked them for the building.

All of our yearly commitments for mission payments have been made, which sets us ahead for the year. This includes Association dues, Our Church's Wider Mission, our commitment to Lighthouse Youth Ministry and our commitment to the six service organizations that we support on an ongoing basis. We were able to do so as we are in better financial shape than we have been in some time.

The anonymous donation was given in the form of an investment within Edward Jones which offers several tax advantages to the donor. During the next stewardship campaign there is a plan to provide information regarding opportunities for legacy giving as we are open to donations of this type.

A previous question was raised regarding the park project funds. These funds were accumulated several years ago, some of which were for a celebration wall which was not ultimately implemented. The total on hand is \$2,029.60 with no immediate plans for its use.

Quarterly Statements will be emailed in July and will include a year-to-date summary of all donations.

Question: To what extent will the congregation have the visibility and voice into the decision on using the Building Funds for something other than the building?

Answer: In the past when the need arose to use building funds for another purpose, we have sought out the original party who donated the funds for approval and then had Church Council decide.

Q: In the past, funds were moved with little to no transparency or control by the congregation, how will Church Council offer more accountability in the future?

A: We will begin with a discussion within Church Council, then engage the donor and at a minimum communicate to the congregation allowing time to capture thoughts and concerns.

Q: That may be appropriate for dedicated gifts, but what about the funds from a variety of sources? Directed gift or not, any need to move funds into Building Funds should be transparent.

A: Whenever possible, we try to save those decisions for congregational meetings.

Acceptance of 2024-2025 Written Annual Reports – Jodi Cowen indicated each team leader has provided a summary of the past year for review. Ken Matthews motioned to approve the Annual Reports; however, a motion was not required.

Q: Are the Annual Reports on the website?

A: Yes, they will be. Previous years are linked. We will make sure there is a link in the weekly e-blast to the reports as well.

If there are any questions, email the Council at fcc.committees@gmail.com or contact the Church Office.

Election of Executive Team Officers and Church Council Team Representatives – Jodi Cowen shared that the list of candidates includes Barb Bahr for the role of Fellowship, Gary Tackes for the Property Team, and Jennifer Dimmer for Liturgy.

Efforts to fill the position of Clerk have not been successful, however Church Council does have the authority to appoint a Clerk following the congregational meeting.

Ken Matthews motioned to approve the full ballot of Executive Team Officers and Church Council Team Representatives as presented. Bill Bond and Chris Fraser seconded the motion. The motion passes.

For anyone not yet ready for a Church Council position, we are looking for help on the Finance Team, Stewardship Team, as well as Staff Support and Review. All teams are open to additional helpers.

Special Recognition and Thanks – Jodi Cowen offered a big thank you to the outgoing Church Council members, Bill Bond, and Rhonda Thompson also Jennifer Dimmer who moved from Fellowship to Liturgy. Thank you to Matt Riemer, Nancy Hinneberg, and Jeanne Mantsch who have finished their first year in their roles and to Tracy Greymont for filling in for Liturgy while also assuming the Associate Moderator position. Thank you to Rhonda for keeping us organized and going above and beyond, and to Pastor Jim for all his efforts as well. A special thank you to the congregation for coming together this year.

Nancy Hinneberg made an announcement. She is hosting a Pampered Chef fundraiser again this coming August.

Our congregation made almost \$1,500 last year and with double donations again this year, plus Nancy's commission we hope to make even more. Please watch the July newsletter for more information. Jennifer Dimmer and Barb Bahr have taken an inventory of the church kitchen, and there will be a registry where members could purchase an item for the church. In August a demonstration day will be held during fellowship where you can look at and taste various products. Thank you to Nancy for leading this fundraiser for us again this year.

Closing Prayer – Pastor Jim

Adjournment @ 10:39 a.m.

Submitted by Shandy Roehrig – Christian Education Team Representative,
filling in for Rhonda Thompson - Clerk