

First Congregational UCC, Gaylord Council Meeting Minutes

January 25, 2026 @ 11:15 am

Revision 1, 28 JAN 2026

Council Members Present: Margaret H., Vicky R., Maggie W., Helen C., Sue F., Judy G-K., Pete A., Greg W. (ex-officio)

Opening Prayer - prayer by Sue F.

Meeting Schedule - discussion covered

1. Setting permanent date & time
2. Online vs in-person
3. Best day & time for Pastor Greg and group
4. Results: no set day of week, or week in the month, will use Zoom

Note Taker - Judy G-K

Convergence Update

1. Convergence committee met with Convergence organization representative shared our churches response to the community interviews
 - a. Community identified needs - housing, health care, reliable information
 - b. Discussed next training
2. Next training for parishioners
 - a. Sunday 1 March and Sunday 29 March after church service
 - b. Training 1 March - Great Unveiling - changes to the Churches roles
 - c. Training 29 March - Creative Churches - case studies that we might be able to apply locally
 - d. Training by Camron Trimble to last approximately 1 hour

Reaching In

1. Pulpit Supply - Judy Gatewood-Keim on 1 February and Rocko Jans 15 February
2. Lenten Season
 - a. Theme is "Tell Me Something Good"
 - b. Likely no art project
3. Confirmation Class -
 - a. 1st Congregational church's two students helped out at the Community Meal
 - b. Anticipated classes being completed and a confirmation service in May

Reaching Out

1. Digital Ministries - Church website -
 - a. Fix gifts given online being identified for a specific account
 - b. Consolidate three church calendars
 - c. Allow updates to the church directory
2. February Special Offering -
 - a. will collect "Back to Basics" offering to divide 50/50 for the Food Pantry & The Refuge
 - b. The Refuge is holding a community forum 5 February, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm at the Otsego County Library

Trustees - (no member present with full financial information)

1. Finished calendar year 2025 approximately \$5,000 in the black
2. 27% of people who made a pledge for 2025 pledged more for 2026
3. Making plans to replace both church and fellowship hall 40 year old roofs in 2026
4. A new furnace was paid for by a donor and installed in the church building

Minister's Updates

1. Staffing -
 - a. Jessica is stepping down from the church's local finance person
 - b. Jessica is training office administrator Liz to complete needed tasks
 - c. Liz will be taking over by April 2026
 - d. Liz will receive funds set aside to compensate Jessica
2. Northern Michigan UCC Association - our church is hosting the spring meeting Sunday, 12 April 2026

Other Business

1. A contact of Don Storing is our permanent Sunday snow shoveler. He will have the area cleared by 9:00 am on Sunday's
2. Vicky R. reported the fellowship hall TV is grainy.
3. Laura B. stated she was interested in helping expand digital ministries beyond the Sunday morning broadcast
4. Brief discussion on how our church as a whole can expand our digital presence

Closing Prayer & Adjourn

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: Thursday, 19 February at 5:00 pm via Zoom