

First Congregational UCC, Gaylord
26 March Council Meeting Minutes

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

Call to order - at 1704 (Pete) & Opening Prayer (Helen)

Convergence Update (Vicky)

Steps completed - 1) church and community surveys, 2) Zoom meeting with congregation, 3) committee meeting with Gregg (Convergence team member) about what does our church want to see happen

Second Zoom congregational meeting with Camron Trimble Sunday 29 March, 1130

Working on projecting the Zoom meeting onto big screen in fellowship hall

Awaiting transcript of first Zoom meeting from Congregation team

Application for second Michigan conference grant of \$2,000 can be made in November

Reaching In (Maggie)

Holy Week - 1) Maundy Thursday 1st Congregational UCC, 5:00 pm with reflective stations. Soup, bread and dessert will be served, 2) St Andrew's Episcopal church 12:00 pm. Community choir practise 11:00, 3) 1st Presbyterian church 5:00 pm Tenebrae service

Communion will be served at Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday

Confirmation Sunday 31 May, celebration with cake after the service

Pulpit supply filled through June 2026

Reaching Out (Margaret)

Podcast - 1) discussion on format, timing, reasons for podcast, how to communicate podcast, use of Pastor Greg's time, 2) format 1-3 questions from interviewer based on sermon, 3) first date likely in May, 4) reason would be to reach different audience, 5) communicate podcast through current church channels and Facebook boost, 6) consider YouTube, 7) consider select individuals to substitute for Pastor Greg

One Great Hour of Sharing giving month closes the end of March

Blanket Sunday and blanket giving will be in May. Margaret volunteered to be the lead.

Informed and asked our congregation to donate to the Union City UCC for their fund to help recent tornado victims

“Back to Basics” special offering in February received \$400 to be shared 50/50 between the food pantry and the Refuge. The checks will be sent in April.

Diaper Sunday for Leon on 29 March

Donate Now button on church website continues to be non-functional

Trustees (Dave)

Giving has been robust in 2026

Otsego Community Foundation - 1) church has investments with Otsego Community Foundation, 2) generally we can spend about \$4,500 per year, 3) fund advisors that act as liaisons are Pastor Greg and Maureen (trustee chair person), 4) advisors can see available amounts, 5) expenditure of funds requires approval of trustees

Interest bearing saving account - 1) opened with our bank, Huntington bank 2) transferred minimum deposit of \$5,000, 3) purpose was a liquid account that earned interest as opposed to our checking account that earns little to no interest

Roof - 1) current church roof is 27-30 years old, 2) Pastor Greg and Dave are going to contact contractors

Jessica's tour of duty ends 31 March

Owe debt of gratitude to Joe W., Greg W., and Don S. for snow removal cost savings

Ministers updates

Carpet deep cleaning - Vicky will help coordinate

Kitchen deep cleaning - Thursday, 23 April by women's group, coordinated by Cathy Otto

Possible need for professional exterminator in fellowship hall

Bathroom signs “Don't place anything under sink” is to be ADA compliant

UCC Northern Association meeting at our church Sunday 12 April. Helen is coordinating help for the event.

Building rental Saturday, 23 May for baby shower

Wedding scheduled for Saturday, 25 July

Baptism for Max and Leon. Date to be determined.

Pastor Greg in Mexico 6-10 April.

Liz Larson might need flexible scheduling as she does ongoing medical treatment

Next Council meeting

Thursday, 16 April at 6:00 pm