

First Congregational UCC, Gaylord
May 28, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes

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

Call to Order & Opening Prayer

Pete called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. and shared opening prayer. Thanks to Maggie Wallin for taking notes @ today's meeting.

Convergence Update

Convergence Team met with Coach Gregg May 11th to discuss draft recommendations. Ken has developed a Convergence Progress Report. This info, including the Convergence Team Draft Ministry Plan, is being made available online to all church participants. Folks are encouraged to review these materials in advance of our church "Town Forum" on Sunday, June 7th following service. Laura Hotelling and Pastor Greg will facilitate discussion of the 4 draft recommendations being proposed.

Reaching In

Confirmation Sunday will be May 31st for Bri and Nola Jean. In June, Judy G-K and Laura H. will lead Sunday worship the weeks Pastor Greg is gone. Outdoor services are scheduled for the 2nd Sunday from June through August "weather permitting". Annual Church Picnic has been scheduled for Sunday, August 2nd at Mary and Pete's in Joburg.

Reaching Out

Otsego County United Way will be holding 2nd Project Connect event Thursday, August 20th at Eagles Hall. They estimate 200 to 300 people may attend. Purpose is to connect individuals and families with numerous community service providers. Pete (on the Planning Team) approached Reaching Out about helping to provide "light snack" to people attending. Plan is to do so in conjunction with Peace Lutheran, St. Andrews and possibly 1st Presbyterian. Margaret H. and Pastor Greg will take lead in coordinating. "Strengthen the Church" is June Special Offering with Cindy G. doing. Pastor Greg said a "Service of Inclusion" is being planned for late summer in collaboration with other area churches. It will be hosted at St. Andrews outdoor Pavilion. More details to follow. Facebook livestream "greeters" and possible sermon podcast concept are both in holding pattern for now.

Trustees

After review of several bids and checking references for our church roofing needs, Trustees selected Ralph Appa Roofing. Bid was accepted at \$27,200 for the church building. In process, Trustees learned the Fellowship Hall roof still has "good years" left before needing to

be replaced. All good news as we expected the estimates to be much higher. Trustees will make final decision on which color of “dimensional shingle” to use. Sidewalk repairs in two areas have recently been completed (thanks to Don Storing). Other building items in process will address the basement exterior door, painting wood around the chimney. Additionally a new commercial refrigerator was recently donated and just installed (replaced current 40 year old unit). Our church financials are getting caught back up to date following recent transition to Liz handling. She is still getting trained on the financial software.

Minister's Updates

Pastor Greg updated on the Disaster Recovery volunteers who are working in our community. They are doing a great job. Our Fellowship Hall will provide lodging for a mix of both Americorps and NCCC volunteers starting June 8th through the 19th.

At the recent “Pastor Parish Relations” meeting, it was mentioned that Greg’s call contract with us states “...our Church will provide...a sabbatical leave of three months after every five years of full-time ministry...”. Greg started with us in November, 2020. He indicated this benefit was not even on his radar until it was brought up at PPR. He brought two questions to Council: First, how to interpret the phrase “after 5 years of full-time ministry” since he has a 75% appointment? Second, when to start the sabbatical and whether it might be done in stages rather than three months straight? Through discussion, there was consensus to target early CY 2027. This will allow Greg time to develop his sabbatical plans and for the Church to assure appropriate pastoral coverage during his absence. It was also noted the call document should be reviewed and revised as needed to address wording inconsistencies (full-time, etc.) that have come to light.

Finally Pastor reported our online “Stripe” donation portal continues to NOT function properly. It will be taken down on June 1, 2026.

Other Business

Judy offered thanks to Womens Fellowship for all their activities and efforts getting things done. Most recent example is the Fellowship Hall carpet and chairs being professionally cleaned.

Next Council Meeting: Scheduled for Thursday, June 18, 2026 at 3:00pm.

Closing Prayer by Pastor Greg. Council adjourned at 4:20pm.

Respectfully submitted by Pete Amar (with big assist from Maggie).