

First Congregational UCC, Gaylord
June 18, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes
(Zoom Only Meeting this month)

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

Call to Order & Opening Prayer

Pete called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. Helen Crandall shared our opening prayer.

May Council Minutes

May minutes were reviewed and approved as written. Pete will forward copy to Liz for upcoming monthly newsletter.

Convergence Update

Consensus was reached at our June 7th Church “Town Hall” meeting to move forward with the four initiatives outlined in our Ministry Plan as presented. Moving forward, Council will now act as a “clearing house of information”, regularly monitoring what (if any) progress has happened with each of the long term goals.

Reaching In

Helen Mate reported Judy Gatewood-Keim, Rosemary Gibson and Laura Hotelling will be covering Sundays now through August when Pastor Greg is gone. Church picnic is August 2nd at Pete and Mary’s. Candle holders have been repaired.

Reaching Out

Margaret Hellenberg reported new T-Shirts are in the works. A “Service of Inclusion” being planned in conjunction with St. Andrews, 1st Presbyterian and Peace Lutheran with date TBD. Judy G-K volunteered to be Reaching Out rep. Plans moving forward on August 20th Project Connect “Light Meal” (also in coordination with these churches). A “Virtual Greeter” being added to the weekly Sunday sign-up sheet. Purpose to monitor and reply as appropriate to “Comments” during our Sunday FB Livestream. A “Special Offerings” YTD Report of what’s been given will be in July newsletter. “Sharing Closet” supplies need to be restocked again.

Trustees

Dave Schopp reported budget is about \$17,000 above projected through last quarter. Church roof is scheduled to be done 2nd half of July. Trustees also working on new exterior basement door (given dimensions, will be a special order).

Minister’s Updates

Pastor Greg reported none of our Church Committees are meeting in July. The Michigan Conference’s Annual Meeting taking place in Grand Blanc October 2nd and 3rd. Friday’s workshop will focus on justice, vitality, ways to work together, etc. Registration link is:

<https://onrealm.org/MichiganConfere/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=YzZjNDgyNDEtNTBiNi00N2RhLWlxNTctYjQ3MTAxODNmZmE1>

Pastor Greg noted he's still "on the fence" regarding upcoming Sabbatical. Possible focus on the American Southwest and Native Spirituality. He'll keep us updated.

Other Business

Helen Crandall mentioned there are 83 UCC churches throughout the state. The Michigan Conference is looking into having a "unified" development committee. She also noted our United Northern Association (UNA) is considering moving to a virtual Zoom concept.

Next Council Meeting: Consensus to CANCEL July Council meeting and Re-Schedule August to Thursday, 8/27/2026 @ 3:00 pm (original date conflicts with OCUW's Project Connect event). Pete will update Liz of these changes.

Closing Prayer by Pastor Greg. Council adjourned at 3:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Pete Amar