

First Congregational UCC, Gaylord
Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, 17 September 2026

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

Call to Order & Opening Prayer

The meeting was called to order by Pete A. at 3:01 pm. The opening prayer was conducted by Greg W.

Our four ministry plan initiatives

1. Making our building more available for community use
 - a. Vicky R. stated a group she is a part of used the kitchen to make cupcakes. The Refuge will be using the building to make sandwiches.
 - b. Helen C. stated the AAUW will be using the building to plan an appreciation event.
2. Doing a better job of telling our church's story
 - a. New inclusivity yard signs
 - b. Providing materials and set up for the Crop Walk
 - c. School supplies that even community meal participants donated to
3. Becoming more intentional about loving people into a deeper relationship with the church
 - a. There have been some additional "touches" to two people who attend randomly.
 - b. Vicky R. conducted digital ministry greeter and facilitated brief interactions with 12 -14 real time online worship participants.
4. Advocating (with other community groups) to create information hub
 - a. Members who interact with the Arts Council
 - b. Library restoration group - utilizing Bob Clark's photo albums

Reaching In

1. No September meeting
2. Advent theme - Until the Dawn
3. Art work church members will paint to Advent
4. January 2027 book study - "How Western Christianity Got It Wrong. Replacing the God of Fear with the God of Love"

Reaching Out

1. School supplies - delivered 5 boxes of supplies to be used by 250 +/- after school students
2. Upcoming UCC special offerings - Neighbors in Need month of October and Christmas Fund month of December
3. Giving Tree presents for Christmas

Trustees

1. General financial - thru August general amounts \$31,000 in checking account and \$185,00 combined savings
2. Roof - roofer continues to try to coordinate with painter to complete steeple
3. Basement door - There is a contract to replace the current basement door with a speciality fiberglass door. Total cost \$3,300.
4. Staff compensation - proposal will be completed before annual meeting
5. Other projects for month of October - storm windows and replace track lighting

Minister's update

1. Sabbatical - target date for first phase of Pastor Greg's sabbatical is 5 - 25 April 2027 in the Navajo nation area near Farmington NM. A long range goal is to renew Pastor Greg's spiritual fitness, gain a better understanding of native American spiritual practices and wisdom, and connect better with local tribes.
2. UCC Michigan conference meeting -
 - a. To be held in October at Grand Blanc UCC
 - b. Helen C. and Sally A. to be our church delegates
 - c. Pastor Greg will be part of the "Vital Growth" ministries presentations where subjects such as "A church without committees" and "children's initiatives" are to be discussed

New/Other business

1. Annual meeting reports - Due by 8 November
2. 2027 Council Roster -
 - a. Pete desires to remain on council but be relieved of duties as moderator.
 - b. Reaching Out - Stepanie K., and Louanne S., are stepping down
 - c. Reaching In - Rokko J., will be rotating off
 - d. Helen C. expressed interest in serving on either the Reaching In or Reaching Out committee
 - e. Sally A. expressed interest in the Reaching In committee
 - f. Be thinking of others to ask to serve
3. Women's ministry
 - a. Brenda B. is now the treasurer
 - b. There will be a fall color tour

Next council meeting

Scheduled for 22 October 2026 at 3:00 pm

Closing prayer & Adjourn

Closing prayers was conducted by pastor Greg. The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 pm