

**First Congregational UCC Church of Gaylord**  
**July 27, 2025 Council Minutes**

Present: David Schopp, Jeanine Wambold, Greg Watling, Judy Gatewood-Keim, Helen Mate, Margaret Hellenberg, Maggie Wallin, Pete Amar

1. Meeting began at 11:10 am. Opening prayer by Pete.
2. Reaching In – Maggie
  - a. No July meeting; next meeting is August 11.
  - b. Juggling of upcoming Sunday coverage. Cindy Goller has agreed to do August 3. Will be her first time leading entire service. Thank you, Cindy!
  - c. August 31<sup>st</sup> will be next outdoor service AND Church Picnic.
3. Reaching Out – Margaret
  - a. No July meeting; next meeting is August 18.
  - b. Annual School Supplies drive will take place during August.
  - c. Revisited last month's discussion re: appropriate committee for livestream team to fit into. Following discussion regarding our Sunday services typically have 200+ views per week and input sought from the livestream volunteers: **Motion by Judy, second by Maggie that livestream activities become part of Reaching Out. Further, Judy volunteered to attend the RO meetings. Motion carried.**
4. Trustees – David
  - a. Trustees met July 16. Our 2025 revenues are tracking right in line with budget.
  - b. Trustees has tabled the outdoor electronic sign project for now. The *lowest* bid was over \$30,000 (much higher than expected). Trustees decided it's best to let the Convergence project unfold first. Will the purchase of an electronic sign be a good fit with the future vision, values, initiatives identified? Or might those dollars be better spent in other ways?
  - c. Wall Hall door will be fixed before the snow returns.
  - d. Amazing salad luncheon last week! The largest one yet. It was noted that folks attend from all over (Mackinaw City, Lewiston, Mio, etc.) Per Greg, we should always be looking for more ways to "get people in the door".
5. Council signed up for the Community Meal on August 22. Helen Mate will coordinate with Tony and Cathy Otto on logistics and then update us on assignments.
6. Minister's Report – Pastor Greg
  - a. Received a long letter from insurance company requesting additional documentation. After Greg has chance to review in full, will follow up with folks as needed to gather necessary info and respond.
  - b. Convergence Project: Greg has gotten all survey results back. Overall very positive. Our church demographics match county ones pretty well. Coach Gregg is recovering from recent knee surgery. A task force Zoom meeting with him will be arranged for first or second week of August. Followed by first congregational update in late August or early September. Finally, anticipate receiving next MI Conference grant later this year.
7. Next Council meeting is Sunday, August 17 after church.
8. Closing prayer by Greg. Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

Respectfully submitted by Pete Amar.