

First Congregational UCC Church of Gaylord
Council Minutes for May 18, 2025

Present: Sallie Anderson, Laura Hotelling, Helen Mate, Margaret Hellenberg, Jeannine Wambold, Dave Schopp, Maggie Wallin, Greg Watling, Peter Amar.

1. Opening prayer by Sallie Anderson, Moderator at 11:40am.
2. Reaching In – Maggie Wallin
 - a. Reviewed Lenten and Easter events and services. All were well attended and received.
 - b. Completed background checks and held meeting about complying with stated policy.
 - c. Laura Hotelling and Mary Fox to lead worship on the 2 June Sundays Pastor Greg is gone.
 - d. 2025 Outdoor Worship Services scheduled for LAST Sundays of our “summer” months.
 - e. Church Picnic taking place August 31st.
3. Reaching Out – Margaret Hellenberg
 - a. Church has been approached about hosting/supporting a local blood drive. Request being looked into further.
 - b. CWS Blanket Sunday special collection raised \$560 this year.
 - c. The annual “5 for 5” Strengthen the Church special collection will be during June.
 - d. RSVP’s funding is still on hold (at the federal level).
 - e. Our church continues to support the Food Pantry by staffing it 2 days/month. Our volunteers note the need has increased tremendously; program is being “overrun” by requests. It was suggested Reaching Out consider putting together some “mission moments” to increase our congregation’s awareness of various local needs (food insecurity, affordable housing, etc.)
4. Trustees – Dave Schopp
 - a. Trustees scheduled to meet this coming Wednesday.
 - b. Dave, Greg and Mary Fox meet with outdoor sign rep of Traverse City company last week. Lot of good info was obtained. Rep will work up cost proposals for a “quality” sign (with internet based software for updating messages, etc.) that would complement the church’s exterior. The outdoor electric will need to be upgraded from 15 to 20 amp circuit. Trustees will review proposals once available; then go from there.
 - c. Annual budget income/expenses are tracking okay for the year.
5. Minister’s Report – Pastor Greg
 - a. Alpenfest Committee has approached us regarding the Petoskey Steel Drum Band’s performance immediately following Saturday’s July 12th grand parade. Requesting church volunteers help set up and take down audience folding chairs (provided) in parking lot right next to us. In exchange, church could extend our traditional sales booth serving hot dogs and drinks, etc. during their show (if we wished to).
 - b. Greg working with Dana @ Community Foundation and Melissa @ United Way to submit a \$20,000 grant request to National UCC to assist with disaster recovery following the Ice Storm. He’ll keep us posted.
 - c. Greg continues to become more connected and involved within the community. Once again helping this year with the Friday Evening Summer Concerts @ “The Claude” (aka Claude Shannon Park).
 - d. Congregational Vitality Plan: Greg reported he’s completed an initial survey and first payment has been made to the Convergence Consulting group. A Congregational Survey is getting geared up and will be live soon for all to complete. Finally, Laura Hotelling has agreed to lead the small Task Force. Both Vicky Rigney and Helen Crandall will be members.
6. Next Council Meeting scheduled for Sunday, June 29th after service.
7. Closing Prayer: In keeping with today’s worship theme, the Council concluded with silent prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Peter Amar.