

MINUTES OF THE FALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: October 19, 2025

#	Topic	Notes
1	Moderator's Report (Dwan)	<p>Approval of Spring Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Motion to Approve</li><li>• Second</li><li>• 27 Approve - Motion Passes</li></ul> <p>We will vote on a draw down on the endowment in January.</p> <p>Highlights from the Summer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reverend Amanda had her sabbatical.</li><li>• The theme for the summer was "Freedom Summer"—we did a good job experimenting with services while Rev. Amanda was away.</li><li>• We rolled out the First Church Signal groups. We hope that this will be a good tool for organizing. There will be a tutorial for how to use Signal at our upcoming potluck.</li><li>• The commemoration for the artwork in the Narthex is upcoming.</li><li>• Discussion of the Fall Retreat.</li><li>• There are ongoing business expenses for building upkeep. We expect these expenses to continue.</li><li>• Council has been discussing the current administration and political climate.</li><li>• We are working on a letter of support for Laura Simmons who is renewing her ecclesiastical endorsement.</li><li>• We will discuss a drawdown of the endowment in the ensuing months.</li><li>• We may need to invest in the church website going forward.</li></ul>
2	Associate Minister's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Our children will be singing our faith next week.</li><li>• We are excited to prepare for the upcoming Christmas Pageant.</li><li>• We have exciting opportunities for a youth service trip.</li><li>• There are many opportunities to serve our community through the church including<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Tommy's Pantry</li><li>◦ Costume drives</li><li>◦ Toy drives</li><li>◦ Clothing drives</li></ul></li></ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Volunteering and Sunday School</li> <li>• The CE commission has done a great job this year.</li> <li>• Next Sunday we will be honoring Rev. Sam's 10 year anniversary with the church.</li> <li>• Please check in on one another as we continue through these difficult times.</li> </ul>
3	Senior Minister's Report	<p>It is not an easy time to live in DC or to be the church in DC right now. We should live our faith based on three prongs in these times:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Telling the Truth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The truth is being intentionally distorted. History is being twisted. Political language is being used to attack the vulnerable. In some instances, it is reaching physical violence.</li> <li>• First Congregational is a place where Rev. Amanda is able to speak the truth freely. It is important that we continue to be a church that can speak the truth – see, e.g. the commemorative artwork. As a community we tell our history differently than we did ten years ago.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Deepening Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We had an incredible fall retreat. We want the fall retreat to be flexible so that people can attend moving forward.</li> <li>• The congregation continues to grow.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Spiritual Practices. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Showing up on Sunday mornings is the most important thing that we do together. Please show up on Sunday mornings!</li> <li>• Your worship leadership staff works hard each week to plan and prepare a worship service that can meet this moment.</li> <li>• We need to be serious about our spiritual practices: e.g., <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Breakaway meditation</li> <li>○ Singing in the choir</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>Our commitment to justice flows out of our faith. If we engage in these three practices, we will be serving justice.</p> <p>Commitment Cards:</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rev. Amanda asks us to discern what we can give, both in terms of money, but also in terms of service and talents (on the back of the commitment card).</li> <li>You can turn in your commitment card as early as today. The final day to turn into your commitment card is November 16<sup>th</sup> (Commitment Sunday).</li> </ul>
4	Treasurer's Report	<p>The bottom line is that we are in very good shape for 2025—much better than we expected.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We have gotten more offerings than we expected.</li> <li>Our building income is good—our building has been fully utilized</li> <li>We are projected to be up in income, which will considerably cut into our projected deficit.</li> <li>We had some additional capital expenses. Final line expenses are projected to be below what we had originally projected.</li> <li>A lot of capital spending we're doing is being funded by the capital reserve. The big issue is that we're needing to use our capital reserve.</li> </ul>
5	Closing Prayer	Rev. Amanda closed us in prayer.

*Minutes prepared by Michael Enseki-Frank, clerk*