

Subject: January 2026 Congregational Meeting

Date: January 25, 2026

#	Topic	Notes	Next Steps
1	Welcome and Moderator's Report	<p><u>Approval of Minutes from Fall Congregational Meeting</u> <u>Fall Congregational Meeting Minutes</u></p> <p>Motion to Approve - Lucille Dickinson Second - Peter Tracey Motion Passes - 36 approve, no dissents, motion passes.</p> <p><u>Moderator's Report</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Dwan would like to say that being moderator wasn't as difficult as she thought it would be. The process was fun and purposeful and gave her a sense of direction.● Highlights from Previous Year<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Affirming Ulung as Director of Music Ministry. He is a well-loved member of the community and he has brought our music expression to new heights.○ Rev. Amanda went on sabbatical. We held it down! Freedom Summer theme went well. We have established new ways that we can worship together.○ The report from the sustainability taskforce committee, including fiscal sustainability and outreach. We are moving forward.○ We nominated Jamey Moore to receive the Seabury Award. Congratulations to Jamey for his work on behalf of the church.○ Experimenting with new modes of communication. Signal.○ Commemorative artwork piece "Forever in our Path."	<p>If you need help signing up for Signal, please reach out to Kristen Wheeler or Michael</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The retreat went well—we are preparing for the upcoming retreat next year. <p>It's been a great year for First Church even in difficult times. It has been very meaningful in helping Dwan get through the year and an honor to be with everyone in community.</p>	Enseki-Frank.
2	Senior Minister's Report	<p>Thanks to Dwan—she really leaned in and the results speak for themselves.</p> <p>As Rev. Amanda looks back over 2025, she wants to highlight that we increased our worship attendance by 13%. Every time you show up to worship, it matters. We welcomed 10 new members, baptized two infants and one toddler. It was such a joy to celebrate alongside Rev. Sam's ministry.</p> <p>Last year, we exceeded our anticipated giving budget, meaning that pledged and unpledged giving exceeded what we had imagined. We also exceeded our stewardship goal. People in our community are steadfastly committed to our work together and our life together.</p> <p>Over the course of 2025 we met this moment faithfully. Our stained glass commemorative artwork centered Rev. Amanda on the theme of truth-telling.</p> <p>We stood by our federal workers, and Rev. Amanda wanted to express that we continue to support our federal workers.</p> <p>As we look ahead at 2026, we have already named a theme: Engaged Citizenship. Over the course of the year there will be many opportunities for you to be an engaged citizen, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Antiracism trainings ● Faith and Democracy campaign for the fall midterms. 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will continue to work with our partner networks and organizations in demonstrations. We will continue to be a witness in DC for the justice and dignity for every human being. • Rev. Amanda believes that faith in community is the antidote for what is ailing in these times. Together we press towards beloved community as the body of Christ. If you are wondering what to do, show up for worship. • Thanks to Dwan and Peter Tracey for their tremendous leadership, both visible and behind the scenes. • Thanks to the church staff. We are grateful to Inez for her hard work, Byron for his work with the facilities commission, gratitude for Whitney for expanding her role, gratitude for Ulung for leading us further into the vision we cast together, and Dennis for stepping in for us while Ulung is away. Finally gratitude to Sam, celebrating his 10th anniversary, the ways he cares for our children and youth as well as our elders. 	
3	Associate Minister's Report	<p>We have had a wonderful year and there are so many aspects of our congregation that flourished.</p> <p>There are so many things that happened this year because of people valuing this community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Talent Show • The Christmas Pageant • Sunday School • Tommy's Pantry <p>All the ways we are together as a church are valued by the way that we show up.</p> <p>It is so important to strengthen our community, including through our retreat. The sense of community building extends to our relationship with People's Church.</p>	

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		<p>Celebration of our young people, who showed up for themselves and each other in a variety of ways.</p> <p>Rev. Sam is very excited to share with the people in his community how we are showing up for God and for one another.</p>	
4	Treasurer's Report	<p>Thanks to everyone who has worked on the budget, especially Lucille. Thanks also to everyone that showed up to the budget meeting two weeks ago.</p> <p><u>Congregational Vote on 2025 Final Budget</u></p> <p>Income</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Total offerings are up nearly \$15,000 above the approved goal. ● Building income is up around \$37,000 more than expected. ● Endowment income was the same. ● Adjusted total (not including pass-through items) we are up about \$53,000. <p>Expenses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Benevolences have increased a bit. ● Capital expenses are nearly double what we projected. However, we have a capital reserve, which we voted to use. For the year we are showing an increase of about \$2,000. ● Facilities expenses are up nearly \$17,000. ● On the Staff line - we had some savings from a gap in coverage. This is not something we expect to carry through. ● Parish expenses saw about \$13,000 in savings. <p>Balance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The deficit was around \$22,000, about \$60,000 lower than 	

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		<p>originally projected.</p> <p>Motion to Approve - Polly Second - Peter Byrne Motion Passes - 34 Approve, no dissents, motion passes.</p> <p><u>Congregational Vote on 2026 Budget</u> Income</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We are projecting a large increase in offerings next year— about \$37,000. ● For building income, we are expecting a loss of around \$30,000 ● Endowment income is projected to increase \$14,000. <p>Expenses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Benevolence budget is expected to increase \$500 ● Capital expenses are expected to increase \$8,800 (not including the capital reserve) ● Facilities overall has increased about \$5200 ● Staff costs have increased mostly due to COLA, around \$18,000 ● Parish expenses are expected to be up ● Overall we are looking at about \$52,000 in increased expenses. <p>Deficit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We are ending up with a projected deficit of around \$52,000, a change of around \$30,000 from last year. <p>Motion to Approve - Peter Byrne Second - Fredda Sparks Motion Passes - 28 approve, no dissents, motion passes.</p>	

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5	Recap of Sustainability Task Force and Recommendation	<p>Investment Commission Recommendation on Endowment Andrew Hamilton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This group was convened two years ago. The commission was charged with assessing how the church should respond to the structural deficit. ● The path to a balanced budget will not come from cuts. We would need to change our staffing model which would undercut our mission. ● Our church is not in a crisis. We are growing and vibrant. We had increases in membership growth and also average attendance amounts. ● Our overarching recommendation is that the church should continue facilitating conditions to grow the church. O&M has already begun work in this direction. ● Another recommendation was to take an additional \$250,000 from the endowment (based on the endowment growth) and move it into the bridge fund. The congregation should also have a larger discussion about the endowment. <p>John Smeltzer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The investment committee didn't think that the mix of investments in the endowment ought to be changed. ● Review of the endowment performance relative to certain benchmarks and the bridge fund. <p>Peter Byrne asks why we need to take \$250,000 out of the endowment and put it in the bridge fund. He feels that the bridge fund is already healthy, and that we should try to grow the endowment to address the deficit.</p> <p>Lucille Dickinson says that if we reduce the endowment by \$250,000, that would reduce the returns to the endowment. But that we would continue to have the money invested.</p>	

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		<p>Lucille Dickinson asks what the wording will be concerning the proposal we are going to vote on.</p> <p>Dwan read the precise wording of the motion.</p> <p>Abigail asked whether the transfer of the money would actually result in reduced returns.</p> <p>John says that it would not change what we would do in terms of actual budgeting, but that it would change the amount that we could count towards the 12 quarter rolling average we are drawing from the endowment. It would not change our annual budget.</p> <p>Meg Maguire asked what Karen Pence's recommendation was on how to do this. Lucille says that this was Karen's recommendation.</p> <p><u>Congregational Vote on Investment Commission Recommendation to move \$250,000 from the</u></p> <p>Motion to Approve - Susan Second - Polly Motion Passes - 25 approve, 3 dissent, Motion Passes</p>	
6	Nominations for 2026 Council and Commissions	<p>Motion to Approve - Polly Second - John Motion Passes - 27 approve, no dissents, motion passes</p> <p>Blessing for 2026 Council and Commissions Revs. Amanda and Sam led a blessing for the 2026 Council and Commissions.</p>	