

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ASHFIELD, UCC
Trustees' Minutes
February 3, 2026 at 7:00 PM

Present: Ted, Hetty, Annie (scribe), Sam, Nancy, Chris, Allen, Patricia

Welcome Chris Haddad as new Trustee, and appreciation for his commitment to the church and his knowledge of the building and grounds.

Old Business

1. Minutes from January 6, 2026 were approved by all.
2. Ann Gibson sent word that she and Sam Perkins will start working together mid-February and will have check signing authorities worked out by mid-April. Schedule is dependent on their travel plans between now and April 1. He will serve as Assistant Treasurer until next Annual Meeting when he will hopefully run for Treasurer position. Quickbooks transition to Quicken is complete and Bing has done e-filing for 1099s. Noone had questions about the financial reports.
3. Building/maintenance/repair issues and status
 - Sam has found a second contractor who will check on roof leaks in spring.
 - Plans for painting Friendship Hall are underway with meetings. Margaret, Wendy, Judy, and Patricia are involved. Nancy would like to help.
 - Balcony stairs and Narthex closet – Allen has called Pease about this and left messages. Basement and Friendship Hall light switches also waiting for Pease.
 - Removal of dead/problem trees near parking lot is completed and Food Pantry has paid \$470 of \$945 cost.
 - Lift inspection – Feb. 17th scheduled. Hetty is going to meet inspectors and oversee.
 - Food Pantry's share of heating is currently \$300/year might be on the low side. Sam and Ted looking into that.
4. Sexton has been sick. Ted will find out when he will be back, and determine if we need a substitute while Jeff recovers.
5. We discussed the noise in furnace. Equipment is fine according to Sandri technician.

New Business

6. Clarke Fund distribution. **Motion:** It is moved to transfer \$4,670 from the Clarke Fund at Vanguard to the church's operating budget. All voted to pass this.
7. Piano Fund distribution **Motion:** It is moved to transfer \$555 from the Piano Fund at Vanguard to the church's operating budget for annual piano maintenance expenses and \$275 to the budget for service charges. All voted to pass this.
8. Discussion about whether or not Trustees could switch to Thursday nights as a possible meeting day to coincide with Deacons' schedule. Several Trustees have conflicts. Ted will respond and unless they feel there is a pressing need, Ted will suggest that we continue to exchange minutes.
9. Adequate sanctuary sound for Zoom services and/or recorded Zoom services. Ann Gibson will work with Annette on this matter during this coming Sunday. Allen can help if he is needed. It requires a special setting for the Zoom broadcast.
10. Election of officers for the year
 - Chair -- Ted
 - Co-Chair -- Nancy
 - Secretary/Scribe – Annie/Hetty

- Chaplain—Holly
- Liaison to Deacons – Patricia

11. Heather Davis wants to use our commercial kitchen to create charcuterie boards once or twice a month for her catering business. Agreement is for 3 months before review; after that if all is well, arrangement will be good for a year's time. All agreed.

12. Agreement with Mikayla Archambeau to use church facilities for dance program over three months. Insurance covers this. Ted will convey enthusiastic endorsement when he goes to Church Council with this proposal.

Next meetings: 3/3, 4/7, 5/5, 6/2, 9/8, 10/6, 11/3, 12/1

Hetty closed with a poem by Billy Collins.