

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

Present: Ted Murray, Annie Cheatham (Scribe), Patricia Donohue, Sam Schreiber, Holly Wescott, Nancy Marshall, Allen Gabriel, Chris Haddad, Hetty Startup

Holly led with a wonderful opening prayer.

Old Business

1. Approval of minutes from February 3 meeting was attained by unanimous assent.
2. Financial review of account balances led by Ted with documents from Ann Gibson who was not present. Additional \$2K has been contributed to the Piano Fund. Ted will track down some discrepancy in the Clarke Fund at Vanguard. Question raised about memorial fund that is invested with UCC Funds. Background indicates that we can merge this fund with the Endowment Fund. Agreed to present merge prospect to Congregational Meeting as soon as possible.
3. Building/maintenance/repair issues and status
 1. Check for roof leaks – Sam will inspect in spring.
 2. Patricia met with Margaret and Wendy about painting Friendship Hall. Have agreement about colors. Looking for discount for paint. Chris will check with Florence Hardware where we have an account and will work with Patricia to complete purchase. Motion: To proceed with paint budget of up to \$500. All approved.
 3. Balcony stairs– Jeff has painted bottom stairs bright white and has added rubber strip.
 4. Electrical issues:
 - Need to address light in Narthex closet and on steps.
 - Ted suggested to switch to Ryan Martin as prospective electrician to help. Allen will follow up. Patricia will also check with another electrician in Ashfield. She'll send info to Allen if he's available.
 - Basement and Friendship Hall light switches will be addressed by electrician (see above).
 - Vent at top of lift shaft needs repair – Allen will add to list for electrician.
 5. Lift inspection was completed on Feb. 17 and went well.
 6. Food Pantry's share of heating is currently \$300/year. Ted and Sam responded to Pat Thayer's question if that was enough to cover their use. They calculated that \$600 might be a fairer estimate. Ted and Sam will talk with Rick Chandler. Might be better to come up with percentage. To be determined.
 7. Jeff has touched up plug cover plates on chancel stage.
 8. Jeff has replaced carbon monoxide detector in kitchen.
 9. Leak in kitchen. Ted will ask Jeff to check on it.
 10. Allen has met with Annette to address sanctuary sound for Zoom services and/or recorded Zoom services. Changes seem to have helped, and Allen will check recorded service to see if sound is good.
 11. Annual review of Sexton has been completed. Paperwork needs to be filed in personnel file. Hetty and Holly might present Jeff with idea for a work order system. In meantime, Holly will tell Jeff that he should check with Ted if he has questions.

New Business

1. The Food Pantry is interested in bringing prepared food for FP clients. Holly and Ted met with a few people to discuss improvements in kitchen to make that possible. Agreed that we are now in partnership with Mary Lyon Foundation and the Food Pantry, and that we might together envision significant changes to the kitchen. Holly will call meeting with a few people to discuss.
2. Sam called about fuel oil delivery. Driver made a mistake by not delivering last month. Records show that we have two tanks and drivers have been notified.
3. Ted has talked with Virginia and Deacons about turning up heat on Sunday morning and not on Saturday night.
4. Deacons' idea of a flagpole for Gay Pride flag. Suggestion made to get a new banner for front of church. Ted will tell Deacons that Nancy will make banner.
5. Food Pantry concerned about snow slides. Chris and Ted will meet with Rick Chandler and slate roof company to discuss what can be installed to stop snow slides.

Next meetings: 4/7

Holly led closing prayer.