

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

**Present:** Ted Murray, Nancy Marshall, Sam Schreiber, Annie Cheatham (scribe), Patricia Donohue, Holly Wescott, Allen Gabriel, Chris Haddad  
**Guests:** Ann Gibson, Treasurer and Sam Perkins, Assistant Treasurer

Opening Prayer led by Holly.

**Old Business**

1. Approval of minutes from March 3, 2026, was achieved by all voting in favor.
2. Financial review was led by Ann and Sam Perkins. Ann thanked Sam for joining the team and appreciated his teamwork and good humor. Sam will be added to bank as signatory. We will keep Marie Fuller on as a signatory as well. Ann Gibson is the third signatory. Financial reports from Quicken might be different from previous Quickbooks reports. Bing is working on software transition. Accounts are doing as well as can be expected given the market's volatility.
3. Building/maintenance/repair issues and status
  - Roof leaks will be inspected soon. **Sam S. is working** on this.
  - Patricia is buying paint to repaint Friendship Hall from Florence Hardware where we have a contractors' discount. **She is organizing helpers** for this project. Sexton Jeff is also interested in helping.
  - Electrical issues are being addressed -- balcony stairs and Narthex closet lighting; basement switches and Friendship Hall light switches; and vent at top of lift shaft. Looking for reliable electrician to do the work. **Allen and Ted will follow up with leads.**
  - Food Pantry's share of heating will be adjusted by percentage of oil used in rear furnace. A percentage formula will serve us over time regardless of price of oil.
  - Carbon monoxide detector in kitchen is broken and Jeff has ordered a new one.
  - **Kitchen inspection will be led by FRCOG with Holly present.**
4. Holly has completed the annual review of Sexton and it is filed in the office.

**New Business**

5. Spring Clean-Up on May 3 will be **coordinated by Patricia.**
6. Snow falling off roof is a problem for Food Pantry and for congregants. Snow guard estimate from Mahan Slate Roofing is \$7,500. If add snow belt (\$22,000), total cost might be up to \$29,500. Perhaps we can use asphalt roofing as alternative. Meeting with Mary Lyon, Food Pantry and church is being scheduled to discuss grant funds for roofing and kitchen improvements. **Ted, Holly and Annie able to participate** in that discussion. Meanwhile, **Ted is getting estimates from roofing companies.**
7. Exterior painting of church/steeple has caught the eye of an anonymous donor who has offered to finance the painting and assessment of steeple cap. Need to find contractors with estimates; then Ted can approach donor. **Ted and Chris will work** on this.
8. FRCOG oil contract for next heating season will be submitted by Sam S.
9. MOTION to recommend the merger of the church's Memorial Fund into Endowment Fund. All voted in affirmative and this will be presented to Congregational Meeting for final approval. Once we have their approval, the funds can be merged.

Closing Prayer led by Holly.

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