

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AKRON**  
**Spring Congregational Meeting – May 18, 2025**

1. Call to Order – Kevin Kowalski, Moderator, called the meeting to order at 11:13 am, and then announced that:
  - a. The former Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting would now be called the Spring Congregational Meeting.
  - b. Colleen Sims would serve as parliamentarian.
  - c. A quorum had been reached.
  - d. Kevin gave the opening prayer.
  - e. He then offered some comments about the future of First Church and thanked the Search Committee for their hard work.
  - f. There were roving microphones available if members wished to comment or ask questions.
  
2. Approval of Annual Meeting Minutes from Sept. 15, 2024 – K. Kowalski  
**Motion 1 - Matt Kalgreen moved to approve; Sarah Vradenburg seconded, and the motion carried.**
  
3. Stewardship & Finance Board Report – Colleen Sims, Chair
  - a. Colleen gave the names of those who served on Stewardship/Finance during the past year: Denny Conrad, Ellsworth Poole, Ashlee James, and Rick Weigand. Ex-Officio members were Kevin K., moderator, and Carrie Petersen, Treasurer. Staff included Janis Worley as FCC Finance and Operations Manager and Jeff Jackson, Senior Pastor.
  - b. Colleen gave a few highlights from last year and presented the budget for the 2025-2026 year:
    - 1) Our endowment will be about \$15,000,000 this coming year (down from about \$15,004,000.
    - 2) The Food Pantry was made a restrictive fund which gives it more flexibility.
    - 3) The property purchase was completed in October 2024.
    - 4) Assessments have gone up, such as lighting, etc., because of our ownership of the new property.
  - c. **Colleen read Motion 2 – “Upon the recommendation of the Stewardship and Finance Board, and with the support of the governing board, it is moved that the budget be approved for the 2025 – 2026 fiscal year.”**

d. No second was needed because it was a committee (board) motion.

e. Discussion was held, and questions were asked:

1) Q - Matt Kalgreen - Have there been any changes since last year? Response by

Kevin - It is now a more realistic budget. The garden is paused for now (too much damage from groundhogs, and not enough value coming out as was going in (monetary, etc.).

2) Q - Mike Brink – Where will dome repair funds be placed in the budget?

Response (Janis Worley) – It needs to be approved first, and it isn't included in the budget.

f. **A vote was taken to approve Motion 2, and it passed.**

4. Dome Repair Funding – Jake Cook, Building and Grounds Board

a. Jake provided names of those on the board: Judy Nicely, Maggie Grigsby, Bud Marston, Kathy Johnson, Matt Kalgreen, and Chair, Todd Brown.

b. He explained a short history of the problem. It was first discovered in September of 2023 and various attempts were made to resolve it which did not last. The board has found a company, Architectural Exteriors of North Canton, that could repair it by removing and replacing material above the dome that is damaged. It would include a new roof with copper roofing that should last 100 years and would come out of our endowment. The maximum amount would be \$120,000. It is possible the actual cost would be less than that.

c. **Jake read Motion 3 – “Upon the recommendation of the Building & Grounds Board, and with the support of the Governing Board, it is moved that the repairs to the Meetinghouse Stained Glass Dome be paid for with Endowment funds not to exceed \$120,000.”**

d. No second was needed.

e. Discussion was held, and comments and questions followed.

1) Q. (Elizabeth Wilson) Should we add more money for a cushion? A. There is already a cushion in the above amount.

2) Q. (Susan Rothman) Will there be annual inspections? A. That is definitely something to consider and plan for in the future.

3) Q. (Mike Brink) Have complaints been made to the previous companies or governing agency? A. A company is out of business. It takes time and money to litigate.

4) Q. (Tim Riley) Has there been an insurance claim? A. Probably not.

5) Jake stated that it is crucial to get the problem fixed now; we shouldn't concentrate now on what could have been done in the past. We need to fix it now

and not wait any longer; it could do irreparable damage to our building if not repaired.

6) Margaret Maurer suggested that people make donations to a special fund for dome repair, which would help offset the amount removed from the endowment. Janis Worley explained how to donate online.

7) Q. (Donna Cunha) When would repairs begin? A. As soon as the company could start.

8) Q. (Mary Ann Gray) Will this work be guaranteed? A. Anything in the project contract is guaranteed (workmanship, etc.).

9) Sarah Vradenburg stated that restoring old houses is complicated, but worth it once it's done.

10) Denny Conrad called for the question. Larry Becker seconded, and a vote was taken on whether to vote on motion 3. It was approved.

**f. Kevin reread Motion 3. We voted and Motion 3 was approved.**

5. Nominating Board Report - Nomination Slate Presentation – Larry Becker, Chair

a. Larry thanked the officers who not only served for one year, but also agreed to serve for two years during our time of search and transition: Kevin Kowalski - moderator, Tori White – vice-moderator, Tiffany Akers – secretary, and Carrie Petersen – treasurer. Larry then listed the names of those on the Nominating Board this past year: Terri Cook, Chris Godard, Kellie Ramirez, and Sarah Vradenburg. He thanked everyone who served on boards and is rotating off this year. He also thanked all those who agreed to serve anew on a board or who agreed to serve another term.

**b. Larry presented the new slate of officers and board members for 2025-2026 and read Motion 4 – “Upon the recommendation of the Nominating Board, and with the support of the Governing Board, it is moved that the slate of officers and board members be approved for the 2025 – 2026 fiscal year.”**

c. No second was needed. **The vote was held, and the motion was approved.**

6. Comments for the Good of the Order

Kevin announced that there would be a Leadership Retreat on Saturday, June 14 for all board members and officers. He told us we could join in the Blessing of the Garden Ramp after adjournment and enjoy ice cream treats, then hear from the Search Committee about our new Senior Pastor candidate.

7. Kevin adjourned the meeting at 11:55 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Yoder

Acting Secretary

