

WINTER

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

First Congregational United Church of Christ



300 West 2nd Street Grand Marais, MN
Annual Report for 2022
Sunday, January 29, 2023

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First Congregational United Church of Christ - Grand Marais
Winter Congregational Meeting following the Worship Service
In Person and on Zoom
Sunday, January 29, 2023

AGENDA

1. Welcoming and review of procedures for the meeting
2. Call to order – Tom Yuhasey
3. Opening Prayer – Pastor Limvere
4. Mission Statement and Open and Affirming Statement
First Congregational United Church of Christ is an open, inclusive church that exists to worship God and practice the gospel of Jesus Christ. We welcome all people of goodwill who seek to share the love of God and honor the diversity of creation in a spirit of tolerance and flexibility. As a Just Peace Church, we invite all who seek the reign of God to join us in reaching out in healing ministry, working for justice, witnessing for peace and striving to overcome all forms of oppression. We recognize two sacraments: *Baptism and Communion*.
5. Approval of Agenda – VOTE
6. Approval of 2022 Summer congregational meeting minutes – VOTE
7. Approval of Minutes from 20/22 Special Congregational Meeting - VOTE
8. Financial Report for 2022 – Kevin LeVoir
9. Approval of 2023 Budget - Vote
10. Moderator Report / Summary of BOD activities - T. Yuhasey
11. Pastor Report - Pastor Limvere
12. Maple Hill properties overview – Sandra Stover
13. Vote to rescind our plan to gift our Maple Hill properties to the Maple Hill Cemetery Board
14. Vote to approve lease of Maple Hill Cemetery properties to Maple Hill Cemetery Board
15. Mission Statement Revision Update
16. Closing Prayer/Adjournment

First Congregational United Church of Christ Congregational
Minutes from the Annual Summer Meeting 6/26/22

Welcome by J. Delfs.

She noted that our constitution and bylaws are on the church website. This is a properly convened meeting and a quorum has been established.

The communication agreement was read.

Business meeting was opened in due form at 11:38 am by J. Delfs. Pastor Enno Limvere offered an opening prayer.

The agenda was approved. Motion by Nancy Cihlar. Second by Nancy Starr. Minutes of the January, 2022 meeting were approved. Motion by Bruce Tyler. Second by Nancy Giguere.

J Delfs introduced all of the committees and invited participation.

Finance report was given by Kevin LeVoir. Particular thanks was given for the contributions made by those volunteering at First & Second and Odz & Endz. It was also reported that the \$3700 in the Chiapas fund has been donated to an organization in that region of Mexico.

Moderator report was given by J. Delfs. Pastor report was given by Pastor Limvere.

The church's Mission statement and Open and Affirming statement were read.

Election for board of directors was held. The nomination committee put forth a slate including Bruce Tyler, Tom Yuhasey, John Bottger and Carol Bennett. Nominations were opened and no one else asked to be added. The slate was elected by unanimous consent vote.

Closing prayer was offered by Pastor Limvere. Business meeting was closed.

Following the business meeting J Delfs discussed forming a new discovery team to update/revise our mission statement to reflect who he Church is today. ***Did anyone volunteer for this?

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Grand Marais, MN

Special Congregational Meeting Called on November 20, 2022

Meeting was called to order at 11:12 AM by Moderator Tom Yuhasey after a quorum was established.

Motion to approve the Minnesota UCC Resolution on Electrification as moved by Steve Aldrich, seconded by Anne Russ. After discussion the motion passed by a large majority.

At 11:17 motion to adjourn by Bob Carter, second by John Bottger. Following adjournment, the congregation divided into smaller groups to discuss the Mission Statement.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Winter
Member of the Board of Directors

SETTLED TERM PASTOR'S REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION

The Rev. Enno Limvere

I would like to say how amazed I am at what this church has done over the past year. The way we have grown in so many areas, been steady through many continuing changes to our worship because of Covid and have created new opportunities for witness of our Still Speaking God may not be miraculous (or maybe is), though it does show the faithfulness of this body of Christ and the Spirit that propels us on. As we look toward next year, I see us continuing down this path of growing the seeds that have been planted: Rooted and Rising, our friendship with Spirit of the Wilderness, Pizza and Social Justice (our youth group), and our continuing to Rally for Peace and Justice. There may be a seed or two that is just breaking through the service for new ministry and action in this coming year, what do you see?

To talk about the meat and potatoes of ministry, we have gone through almost every variation of worship than one church can with the exception of holding it off-site (challenge extended...). Thanks to our tech crew of Bob, Steve N., Tom, and Steve A. for learning on a steep curve and hanging in there so we have a good Zoom participation and a good recording of our worship services. There will always be a glitch or two because of tech and

nobody is perfect, but we are continuing to hold steady. A great thanks to our liturgists who show up every Sunday to help lead the church, bringing different voices and perspectives to our weekly worship. We have some great musicians with different styles that help keep things fresh and thank you to Ann Russ and the choir for always bringing and singing us to higher heights.

Our Faith Formation continues to grow in that we now have two discipleship groups: Journey and Surely, we had two Bible studies (Isaiah and Letter of James), Pizza and Social Justice has bloomed this Fall, many thanks to Kristin Wharton, their leader, and we lost some of our Sunday School as one family moved away.

My community involvement has been fruitful in helping to start our MNIPL Cook County Climate Team which started the Earth Day Fair and helped with the project of rehabilitating the rain garden down by the library. I am continuing the Board of Trustees for Grand Marais' Public Library, on the Pride Committee, and a chaplain for the Sheriff's Office.

The new ministry of our church was created in Rooted and Rising based on a book study that was done this past Spring and has brought some fruits for our church and community. The raised garden beds built this past fall are just the beginning for creating a sustainable and ecological land around our church and the community.

I continue to be involved with our wider United Church of Christ in attending a monthly clergy cluster, webinars, a pastor's retreat in November, and I am on the planning committee for this year's Annual Conference Meeting, which is to be held on June 9th and 10th.

There are many other things I could talk about like our Sing-a-longs and Tai Chi. But the heart of our ministry is the command to love God with our all heart, mind, soul, and strength and this is being done in many ways. May God continue to bless us and keep us.

Peace,
Pastor Enno

Board of Directors (BOD) 2022 Annual Report

Submitted by Moderator Thomas Yuhasey

Current BOD members: Tom Yuhasey (Moderator), John Bottger (Vice Moderator), Jenny Delfs (Secretary), Kevin LeVoir (Treasurer), Carol Bennett, Carol Winter, Bruce R. Tyler

Previous member: Lesaann Foris (left BOD in June 2022) (*but not forgotten*)

The Board has continued to meet monthly by Zoom in part for convenience, and, to ensure the well-being of our members. We look forward to meeting together in person as circumstances allow. Other committees have continued to meet also under guidelines that work for them. Church business and projects are successfully completed. I am thankful for all our congregants who have taken an active role in conducting the business of the church, participating in Sunday services, working on projects, and serving on committees, offering their skills and knowledge to ensure success.

I have acted as your moderator for six months and no one is more surprised than me. I am thankful for our board members and pastor's guidance and assistance, and to all who welcomed and encouraged me.

We have been pleased with our now Called pastor (as of January 2022) Enno Limvere. His service to our congregation has not disappointed. As Pastor Enno enters his third year of ministry with us (which includes one year as "term" pastor) I hope we all continue to extend our churches upmost hospitality to him and Kileen. I am encouraged by his diverse community involvement and his continued work keeping us connected with other local churches.

We continue to manage the church's finances, contracts, and properties. I am hopeful that at this meeting we will be finally able to resolve the Maple Hill property issue that has concerned us for so many years. As a constantly evolving congregation we had planned to offer an opportunity to choose a new mission statement, to better state who we are today. This however will not be finalized at this time.

This Board is dependent on support and input from the congregation. We strive to keep the Board of Director's activities transparent. Meetings are open to all who might want to add their voice. Minutes are available in the Shining Light newsletter, on the website, and in the church office. Email or call a Board member with your concerns.

In 2022 the congregation voted for:

- The 2022 budget (January)
- To offer a Called Pastor position to Enno Limvere (January)
- Bylaw change: RE Redefinition of Quorum (January)
- June election for board of directors was held. The nomination committee put forth a slate including Bruce Tyler, Tom Yuhasey, John Bottger and Carol Bennett. Nominations were opened and no one else asked to be added. The slate was elected by unanimous consent vote.
- Electrification Resolution in November

Summary of monthly Board meetings and congregation meeting decisions 2022: (look to minutes in monthly newsletters for details)

January –

- Congregational meeting approval of 2022 Budget and decision to change Enno Limvere position designation from a “term” to “called” pastor. Contract Committee worked out new contract with Pastor Enno.
- Jenny Delfs announced she will be stepping down as moderator in June of 2022.
- Inclusive Church Checklist reviewed by board members. Building accessibility issues discussed as well as how improvements are to be funded. Developing a vehicle charging station at church explored

February -

- Discussion on best use of 3 pass-through funds (funds inactive or currently having excess money) conducted. Funds involved – Chiapas, Thanksgiving, Pastoral Search.
- Pastor’s contract discussed – required actions- monthly reports to BOD, as well as meetings with Pastoral Relations Committee. Goals to be met by pastor to be mutually agreed upon.
- Mission Statement update to be BOD project for the year.
- Indoor services resumption discussed as well as requirements to attend – will await recommendation of the Worship Committee.
- A request to purchase part of our church’s property was received – Decision – no action taken

March-

- Pass-Through funds again addressed. Thanksgiving fund to be reduced to \$500 with the bulk of the money (\$1000) in the fund going to purchase gift cards for food purchases. The Pastoral Search Fund is reduced to zero dollars with a purchase of a laptop computer for the church and the rest of the \$2900. Going into the general fund.
- Mutual Ministry Goals workplan discussed and plans developing on Mission statement rewrite
- Who will continue to serve on the BOD after Summer Congregational meeting discussed.

April –

- Lesaann Foris announced she'll be leaving the board. John Bottger, Tom Y, and Carol Winter will be on the ballot in June for two-year terms. Nominating committee formed to seek out replacement for Lesaann. Mutual Ministry Goals discussed along with plans to hire a new church janitor.
- BOD votes to rescind the policy of vaccinations for church attendees.

May -

- Pass through funds discussed – determination of Chiapas Fund being looked at Mutual Ministry Goals yet to be finalized.
- Nominating Committee looking into several potential candidates to replace position to be vacated by Lesaann Foris.
- Worship in time of COVID discussed. Breakout groups planned at a May church service.
- Plans made to develop a Discovery Team to work on new mission statement. Pride Event Discussed.

June—

- Use of food cards purchased from excess Thanksgiving Fund will be at Pastor's discretion.
- Mutual ministry goals for BOD and Pastor being fine-tuned.
- Maple Hill cemetery property disposition – begin considering long term lease.

Summer Meeting of Congregation -

- Members elected to serve of BOD Jenny bids us farewell as Moderator.

July – New Moderator Vice-Moderator and board Secretary elected.

- Concerns about Enno's workload expressed.
- Mutual Ministry goals are being clarified.
- Pledge Drive plans beginning.
- Plans for possible confirmation program made.
- Safe church policy discussed.
- Outreach Committee spoke about involvement with MN Interfaith Power and Light.

August -

- Mutual Ministry Goals for 2022-2023 finalized.
- Decision made to draft three or four possible new mission statements based on outcome of breakout sessions.
- Lease of Maple Hill property discussion continues.
- EV charging station at church prove unfeasible at present time.
- Safe church policy refinement continues.

September -

- Safe Church Policy changes/recommendations on how to implement.
- Solar Panel installation at church discussed.
- Return to worship indoors discussed.

- Rooted and Rising group plans presented.
- Thanksgiving Dinner plans being developed.

October –

- Mission Statement Revision group continues to meet; new statements are being developed.
- Mutual Ministry goals defined – qualifying nurturing events discussed. Outreach goals in community to be mentioned during announcements.
- Safe church policy updated regarding background checks.
- Plans to move forward with lease of Maple Hill properties.
- Building and Grounds Committee plans were discussed,
- Worship Committee fine tunes health safety policy for Sunday services.

November -

- Draft of lease of Maple Hill properties was examined, suggestions received. History of our Maple Hill holdings was given by Sandy Stover.
- Procedure for vote on Electrification Resolution Vote at November Special Election discussed, final Thanksgiving Dinner arrangements made.
- Stewardship Committee pledge drive in full swing.

- **December** - Plans continue for Maple Hill properties to be leased to Maple Hill Cemetery Board.
- BOD supported Social Justice mutual ministry goals, with cookie sale for youth trip to Washington.
- Pledge drive totals to date were examined
- Plans made for Pastor Evaluation in January.
-

**Finance Committee Report for
The Annual Meeting of the 1st Congregational UCC Grand Marais MN
January 2023**

Written by Kevin LeVoir, Treasurer

The Finance Committee met throughout 2022 to review the Financial System used by the Church. The Committee spent considerable time developing an accurate and complete 2023 Budget for the church. A listening session for the congregation will be held in Jan 2023 to discuss the proposed 2023 budget. The Finance Committee members are Kevin R Le Voir, Jeff Kern, Chris Silence, and Pastor Enno as Ex Officio.

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual - By Quarter
January through December 2022

	2021 Budget	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget
Pledges (Pledged Donations)	\$ 95,000	\$ 105,000	\$ 107,953.55	\$ 115,000
Offerings (Non Pledged Donations)		\$ 15,000	\$ 4,021.33	\$ 10,000
Loose Plate Offerings	\$ 6,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,596.00	\$ 2,500
Building Use	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 2,917.00	\$ 2,500
Other Cash Assets (Example Endowment)	\$ 51,583	\$ 23,756	\$ 15,728.20	\$ 30,510
Interest Income	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 14.39	\$ 150
Pass Through Donations			\$ 279.00	\$ -
Memorial Donations			\$ 170.00	\$ -
General Fund Income	\$ 158,083	\$ 151,756	\$ 132,679.47	\$ 160,660
Income Applied to Budget Expenses				
Hospitality Donations		\$ 50	\$ -	
Sunday School Offerings		\$ -	50.00	
General Fund Income			132,729.47	
Mission & Per Capita				
OCWM	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,000
Per Capita	\$ 975	\$ 500	\$ 375.00	\$ 350
Total	\$ 4,975	\$ 4,500	\$ 3,375.00	\$ 4,350
Pastor				
Pastor Salary	\$ 42,840	\$ 42,840	\$ 42,840.00	\$ 42,840
Health and Dental	\$ 24,900	\$ 24,900	\$ 25,073.25	\$ 26,892
Life and Disability	\$ 835	\$ 835		\$ 835
Social Security Offset	\$ 4,260	\$ 4,260	\$ 4,260.48	\$ 4,260
Pension Fund Contribution	\$ 7,797	\$ 7,797	\$ 7,796.88	\$ 7,800
Mileage (@\$0.655/Mile)	\$ 650	\$ 650	\$ 1,195.59	\$ 1,025
Continuing Education	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 200.00	\$ 500

	2021 Budget	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget
Professional Fees	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 261.98	\$ 500
Total	\$ 82,283	\$ 82,282	\$ 81,628.18	\$ 84,652
Staff				
Office Manger Wages and Taxes	\$ 8,640	\$ 4,250	\$ 5,580.30	\$ 5,500
Custodian Wages and Taxes	\$ 3,906	\$ 3,906	\$ 3,546.38	\$ 3,925
Taxes	\$ 705	\$ 705	\$ 698.80	\$ 700
Total	\$ 13,251	\$ 8,861	\$ 9,833.48	\$ 10,125
Business				
Advertising, Promotion, Website	\$ 685	\$ 685	\$ 522.55	\$ 685
Banking Charges and Checks	\$ 80	\$ 80	\$ 879.78	\$ 900
General Liability Insurance	\$ 3,850	\$ 4,200	\$ 4,199.00	\$ 4,600
Workers Compensation	\$ 950	\$ 950	\$ 815.00	\$ 950
Equipment Lease (Ricoh Copier)	\$ 3,625	\$ 4,000	\$ 5,143.23	\$ 5,500
Postage and Delivery	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,400	\$ 303.21	\$ 1,400
Accounting Expense	\$ 2,250	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,040.89	\$ 2,000
Telephone and Internet	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,504.18	\$ 1,500
Office Supplies	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 674.77	\$ 1,250
Conferences and Meetings	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 289.50	\$ 1,500
Teacher and Board Expense	\$ 335	\$ 335		\$ 385
Technology Expenses	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 886.71	\$ 1,000
Total	\$ 16,875	\$ 18,350	\$ 17,258.82	\$ 21,670

	2021 Budget	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget
Worship				
Musicians	\$ 7,800	\$ 7,800	\$ 5,100.00	\$ 7,800
Visiting Pastor	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 406.00	\$ 1,200
Piano & Organ Maintenance	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 125.00	\$ 250
Music, Candles and Other	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 480.21	\$ 300
Total	\$ 9,200	\$ 9,200	\$ 6,105.21	\$ 9,550
Fellowship				
Hospitality Expenses (Net)	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ 125
Total	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ 125
Education				
Adult Education	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 311.60	\$ 400
Youth Ministry	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 100
Books and Teaching Material	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 89.50	\$ 250
Local Out Reach	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500
Total	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,100	\$ 401.10	\$ 1,250
Buildings & Grounds				
Utilities (Electricity+ Sewer and Water)	\$ 750	\$ 3,750	\$ 2,699.74	\$ 3,750
Utilities (Heating)	\$ 10,806	\$ 6,000	\$ 4,352.37	\$ 6,000
	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
Roof Loan Interest and Principal	\$ 5,252	\$ 7,503	\$ 6,252.50	\$ 7,503
SBA Loan Repayment	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ 450
Maintenance and Repairs	\$ 575	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,097.43	\$ 3,000
Grounds, Plowing	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,335.00	\$ 2,000
Garbage	\$ 1,150	\$ 500	\$ 35.00	\$ 150
Misc. Expense	\$ 680	\$ 680	\$ -	\$ 680
Total	\$ 21,463	\$ 22,183	\$ 15,772.04	\$ 23,533
Parsonage				
Parsonage Utilities	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,581.74	\$ 1,800
Parsonage Heating Fuel	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 772.26	\$ 1,500
Parsonage Utility Assessment	\$ 1,230	\$ 1,230	\$ 1,229.02	\$ 1,230
Real Estate Tax	\$ 3,356	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Maintenance and Repairs	\$ 800	\$ 500	\$ 1,242.97	\$ 1,000
Total	\$ 8,686	\$ 5,030	\$ 4,825.99	\$ 5,530
Total Expenses	\$ 158,083	\$ 151,756	\$ 135,824.82	\$ 160,660
Income - Expenses	\$ 0	\$ (0)	\$ (3,145)	0

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2022

	Dec 31, 22
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Checking - GMSB 0660	13,988.99
Savings - GMSB 7621	189.77
Total Checking/Savings	14,178.76
Other Current Assets	
Investment Assests	
E. Jones Stock	1,108.88
UCF Investments Balanced Funds	89,995.00
Total Investment Assests	91,103.88
Total Other Current Assets	91,103.88
Total Current Assets	105,282.64
Fixed Assets	
Church	567,500.00
Building Renovations	
Bldg Rnvtn - Roof/Rocks/Doors	119,297.98
Total Building Renovations	119,297.98
Parking Lot	41,900.00
South Cemetery Property	52,400.00
North Cemetery Property	25,600.00
Parsonage	236,812.74
Furniture and Equipment	347.74
Total Fixed Assets	1,043,858.46
Other Assets	
PrePaid Donations	-800.00
Total Other Assets	-800.00
TOTAL ASSETS	1,148,341.10
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
SBA Loan	10,000.00
Payroll Liabilities	
FICA Tax Withheld	287.94
Medicare Tax Withheld	67.34
Total Payroll Liabilities	355.28
Total Other Current Liabilities	10,355.28
Total Current Liabilities	10,355.28
Long Term Liabilities	
LOC - GMSB - Renovation	95,874.47
Parsonage 2008 Util Assessment	8,717.02
Total Long Term Liabilities	104,591.49
Total Liabilities	114,946.77
Equity	
Unrestricted Net Assets	-47,588.15
Opening Balance Equity	9,027.28
Unrestricted Equity Balance	1,052,602.06
Church Impr Accum Prior Yr Int	-5,499.86

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2022

	Dec 31, 22
Restricted Equity Accounts	
REA - Thanksgiving	1,327.75
REA - Church Repairs	1,399.57
REA - Memorial	2,119.92
REA - Piano & Sanctuary	2,761.60
REA - Pass Through Accts	
REA Ukraine Relief	-10.00
REA Rooted & Rising	-256.00
REA Christmas Fund	275.00
REA Neighbors in Need	-25.00
REA One Great Hour of Sharing	690.00
REA Strengthen the Church	40.00
Total REA - Pass Through Accts	714.00
Workers on Wheels	
WOW Balance Carried Forward	889.22
WOW - Current Deposits	8,146.35
WOW - Current Disbursements	-5,610.00
Total Workers on Wheels	3,425.57
Unresolved Restricted Equity	21,334.39
Restricted Equity Accounts - Other	-100.00
Total Restricted Equity Accounts	32,982.80
Net Income	-8,129.80
Total Equity	1,033,394.33
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	1,148,341.10

Stewardship Report
Annual 2023 Winter Meeting
by Tom Yuhasey

The Stewardship Committee reports the completion of its 2022 pledge drive. While the number of pledges for 2023 so far is slightly less than last year as of this time, those who did respond were again very generous. We thank all who assisted in the pledge drive including those who spoke at Sunday services and those who helped in the tasks related to the mailing of the pledge requests.

Again, our hope remains that those who have yet to be heard from will come forward to share their abundance with us.

One encouraging point that needs to be mentioned was last year those who pledged, ended up gifting the church with a substantial amount of funds above and beyond what they promised. Also, the number of congregants who have stepped up to take part in our Sunday services and volunteering their time and skills for projects and activities remains strong.

My personal hope for the future is that one of our congregants will win a mega-lottery and grant us joy.

Pastoral Relations Committee Annual Report

Written by Sandy Stover, Chair

The Pastoral Relations Committee has the charge to provide a confidential environment for both Pastor and Congregational representatives to meet and reflect on the role of the Pastor. We meet monthly via Zoom.

We are currently reviewing topics on a monthly basis that are chosen to highlight communication topics or other timely subjects.

Committee members include Carol Bennett, Mike Carlson, Ann Russ and Sandy Stover along with Pastor Enno.

2022 Building and Grounds Annual Report

Committee Members - Barb and John Bottger, Byron Aldrich, Ranna LeVoir, Jeff Kern, Gwen Mattice, Bruce Tyler, and Pastor Enno

Responsibilities - Maintenance of the church and parsonage building and grounds. The committee met monthly through the year.

Work was done on short term projects and developing long range plans. During the year work in the church including electrical issues, heating issues, snow plowing, grass cutting, carpet cleaning, energy reduction, upgrading the sound system for indoor and outdoor use and general maintenance. Discussions included ADA accessibility, solar panels, and energy audits. A list of major projects was developed.

A replacement custodian was hired. Work at the parsonage included painting, carpet cleaning, installing a fan, snow plowing, and general maintenance.

As we enter 2023 the committee will be seeking bids for an architect to develop plans for building usage, ADA accessibility, and energy reduction, preliminary cost estimates, while maintaining the architectural integrity of the church.

Note: Special thanks to Jeff Kern for always being available to help with emergency issues.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Written by Jody Yuhasey

Memorial Committee Report for Winter Congregational Meeting

When someone you love becomes a memory

that memory becomes a treasure

We treasure the memories of the special people no longer with us and thank the individuals who gave memorial donations. As always, the memorial committee will work with the families and our board of directors for the best use of memorial donations.

The current memorial balance is \$2,139.92

Rooted and Rising Climate Action Semi-Annual Report

Following our Lent, 2022, reading of Rooted and Rising: Voices of Courage in a Time of Climate Crisis, the group chose to study what we could do locally to mitigate the effects of climate change. Over the summer we adopted the following mission statement:

To demonstrate good stewardship of our land by protecting water quality, providing natural habitat, and increasing climate resiliency.

Our projects included:

- Building raised planter boxes to be offered to the Community Garden program for people who would have difficulty bending down to work in a ground-level garden plot; planters intended to have year-round use as support for our Outdoor Advent Wreath and as a sign-holder pointing to the main entrance.
- Collaborating with the Cook County Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light (CC IPL) chapter to rehabilitate the rain gardens near the library;
- Researching ways to make a section of the churchyard a demonstration plot for alternative turf cover;
- Researching possible tree and shrub plantings around the churchyard for shade from the western sun and for food for wildlife.

For 2023 we are again promoting a book study of Inhabiting Eden: Christians, the Bible, and the Ecological Crisis. The book explores how Christians have mis-read and can reread the Creation Story, and looks at a number of practical things people can do to help mitigate the climate crisis. Chapters include breaking the over-consumption cycle, food issues, environmental injustice, animal welfare, awareness of the whole of Creation, and what legacy we will leave to future generations. We continue our exploration of landscape changes and additions, collaboration with the CC IPL, helping with the Earth Day Fair, and cooperating with Building and Grounds to propose and support efforts to make our building more climate resilient.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

By Pastor Enno

Our worship committee: Ann Russ, Linda Noble, Jenny Delf, and Bob Carter (Helen was a part of it the first half of the year) was really put through the paces this year as it seemed every month we had to change something about worship or figure how to do something better. Thanks to Bob Carter, Steve Noble, Steve Aldrich, and Tom Yuhasey for being out tech crew. They have stuck in there and learned a lot and now we have very few glitches and a clear picture and good sound of our worship services.

We don't know what this year will hold, if we will continue to be able to worship inside and sing, if we are going back outside this summer, not because we have to, but because we want to. How big our choir will become as we already had 10 people show up this past Sunday (not half of the church, but close). Are there new things to introduce into our worship, parts to bring back or parts to let go of? These are the questions and discussions and learnings we will continue to work on as the worship committee.

Faith Formation Committee (written by Pastor Limvere)

Faith Formation in our church is composed of four different parts this past year. The 'traditional' one is Sunday School. Last Spring we had five youth showing up regularly and then over the summer one family moved to the Twin Cities taking three of our youth. One shows up regularly on Sunday's now. Pastor Enno is waiting for an adult or parent or two to help work on expanding what we can offer and recruit new people.

The second is our Pizza and Social Justice (youth group is something that is now old). Thanks much to Kristin Wharton, we now have 5-10 youth showing up for each gathering. We still meet once a month, and we have had two overnights with a possibility of one more. This year we are focusing on Social Movements so inviting community members to talk about their experience and history of different movements like Environmental, Women's, Community Building, and Education. We are three youth and two adults planning on being a part of the Minnesota Conference Washington, DC, trip July 21-28. The group has raised over \$600 to help them with the expenses of the trip and thank the congregation for an additional \$300 to help feed the youth.

The third part is adult education focusing on Bible Studies. Over the Summer we completed a year's journey focusing on the prophetic book of Isaiah. This Fall we went through the book of Letter of James. These attracted 3-5 people joining in.

The fourth part is our Discipleship Groups. We have two of them, the Journey and the Surely. They meet once a month to discuss some of the basics of the Christianity and explore and practice the different ways inside and outside the church we can live out our faith.

CREATING COMMUNITY AND FRIENDSHIP THROUGH FOOD

Food Team 2022 Report

The food team is looking forward to future times of safely gathering and eating together. In the meantime, in 2022, we served root beer floats to the congregation one Sunday after outside worship, and set up and served food outdoors to the one hundred plus people who gathered for a June Pride Celebration.

Ranna LeVoir, Nancy Starr, Carol Bennett, Helen Carter, Ann Russ, and mentor Bev Denyes

Thanksgiving 2022 Summary- Covid Safe, Round 2

by Jenny Delfs

It takes a village of hard working, skilled volunteers ... and a little luck. The decision was made to make this meal pick up/delivery only again due to ongoing community transmission of Covid 19. This was not our historical community fellowship served family style around decorated tables -- but it was **as much hospitality as the Covid pandemic will safely allow...** and so appreciated by all who got a meal this year.

THE NUMBERS:

Meals: 155 delicious meals - 39 delivery, 78 pick-ups, 28 volunteer meals and about 10 walk-ins.

Volunteers: about 25 over the course of 2 days.

Donations: \$718.00 - typically \$500 will be kept as seed money for next year and the rest converted into food gift cards for distribution to any in need in the next year.

Special shout outs:

1. Helen Carter for taking all the calls for meals and volunteers and organizing it all into an efficient pickup schedule and execution. Everyone can hear her smiling over the phone. She was our point person this year.
2. Bob Carter for managing the turkeys and answering every request/situation with "I can do that"
3. Bob Carter and Mike Carlson and all the home ovens for the early start Thanksgiving morning cooking birds. I'm glad I wasn't up that early.
4. Bruce Tyler for being spot on in quantities, interfacing with the Hub and making 20 delicious pumpkin pies. He is a pro.
5. Mike Carlson and Carol Bennett for really nailing the gravy this year. It was freaking awesome. No giblet was spared.
6. Jodi Yuhasey for all her stealth dish washing. I see you.
7. Tom Yuhasey for steady reliable corn management and all things Tom.
8. Carol Bennett for catching and averting several disasters and for creating clean

- up magic. She's a pro too.
9. Amanda Weberg running laps up and down the stairs, never breaking a sweat... and taking care of me.
 10. Linda Noble for mastering stuffing prep... even under pressure.
 11. Peter Bennet for making mashed potatoes fun and for photographing the event.
 12. Pete Harris, Jeff Kern and Bob Carter for carving excellence.
 13. John and Barb Bottger, in their first Thanksgiving participation, organizing all things pie like seasoned veterans with expert help from Max Linehan.
 14. Pat Zankman and Nikki Boostrom for cranberry excellence.
 15. Steve Aldrich for exceptional traffic control.
 16. Donna and Orvis Lunke for showing up to deliver the goods every year I've been involved.

This is my favorite church event of the year, even in this streamlined version. I was so happy to spend the day looking busy, acting bossy but in reality, in charge of nothing in particular. I love being with my church and community family. Grateful for the day and everyone who was a part of it. Here's hoping for someday when we can linger over pumpkin pie and coffee in a crowded room soaking it all in.

WOW (Workers on Wheels) report for 2022

By Jeff Kern

WOW was more active. We checked out about 70 bikes, and most were returned. A couple businesses made donations to the program. Several required multiple fixes; mostly flat tires, but some more complex. Steve did much of the repairs and prepping. Jeff did most of the interface with foreign workers. I think it was John who did test rides.

2022 was more active than 2021. Plus we had several nice bike donations and Tim and Beth Kennedy are allowing us to use a spare 10X12 shed for bike storage.

Committee: Steve Deschene, Jeff Kern, John Mattice and Jay DeCoux.

Maple Hill Cemetery

Lease Proposal

Winter Meeting, First Congregational United Church of Christ,
Grand Marais, Minnesota

1/29/2023

Submitted by Sandy Stover

Proposal:

Lease the Maple Hill Cemetery property currently owned by the Congregational Church to the Maple Hill Cemetery Association, for a 99 year term. This will require two votes:

1. Rescind the offer made in October 2020 to give the property as a gift to the Maple Hill Cemetery Association
2. Vote to go forward with the 99-year lease
 - a. Signatures on Lease and Memorandum of Lease

Land descriptor:

1. Property Address: Section: 4 Township: 61N Range: 1E
2. Legal Description of Church property (Note that there is also land that is part of the cemetery that is owned by the Hedstrom Company):
 - a. PART S1/2 of SE/NW W OF HEDSTROM & USA

TRACTS

- b. PART NW/NW/SW CEMETERY & E 6 FT of W

655 FT

Benefits: Maple Hill Cemetery / Board obligations

1. Payment of all costs including taxes, insurance premiums, lawn care, snow removal, lighting, trash removal
2. Maintenance of property
3. Maintenance of signage
4. Payment of utilities
5. Maintain parking
6. Purchase and maintenance of liability insurance
7. Any fire/damage to improvements on property are the responsibility of the Association
8. Termination of the lease can occur with a minimum of 15 days written notice of either party
9. The lease is not construed as a partnership agreement

Current Cemetery Board:

Chair - Howard Hedstrom

Treasurer - Heidi Dookirk

Secretary - Sandy Stover

Board members - Phil Kruse, Chris Silence, Dave Howe

Timeline for the cemetery property:

1897: Incorporation of the Cemetery. Note that the history records I found have different dates/names for the first burial.

4/21/1904: Charles Johnson sells a quitclaim for the original property to the Maple Hill Cemetery Association (\$1000). Property description: "Section 4, Township 61 North Range One East of the 4th PM"

5/11/1904: August and Stina Johnson, along with Gust and Emma Olson sell additional (aligned?) property to the Swedish Lutheran Church, for use as a cemetery 1904: Original filing of the Maple Hill Cemetery Association with the state of Minnesota; the First Congregational Cemetery Board was the governing structure

6/11/1948: Donation of land to the United Protestant Church by the Hedstrom family 10/1/1952: deed for sale of land (\$1.00) from Andrew Hedstrom and Alma Hedstrom to the United Protestant Church; SE quarter of the NW quarter

10/1952: quit claim from United Protestant Church to Andrew Hedstrom for \$1.00; South half of SE corner of NW quarter, Section Four

1961: Church Constitution indicated that the governance was via the Maple Hill Cemetery Committee, with a Superintendent acting as leader

7/1/1977: sale of land by Hedstrom Company to Congregational Church for \$1.00; SE quarter of the northwest quarter

3/29/90: Land Survey

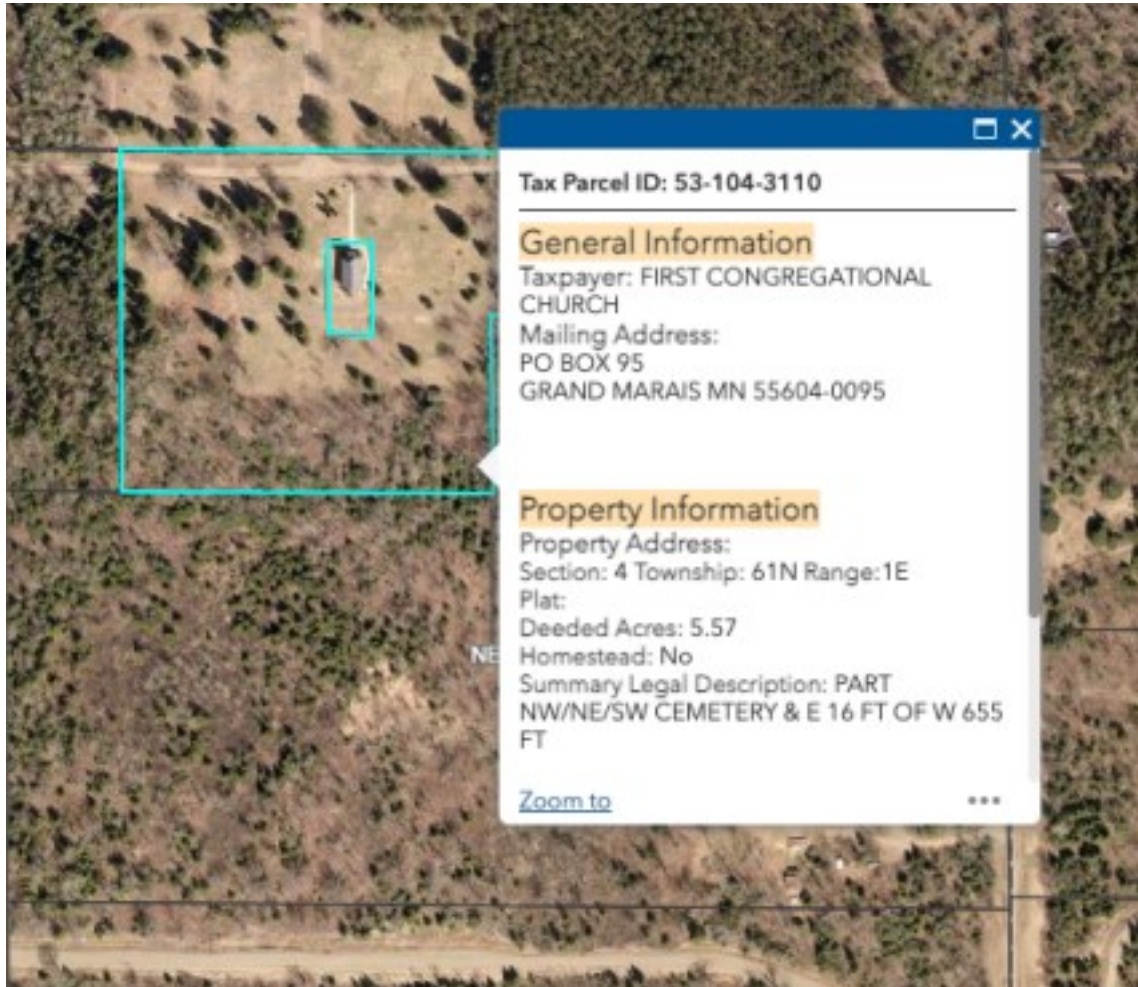
1/13/1999: Hedstrom Company conveys land (13.06 acres) to the Congregational Church for use as a cemetery (SE quarter of the NW Quarter)

2018: Jack Hedstrom handed of management of the Cemetery Board to Howard Hedstrom

(Photos of land tracts are printed separately)







Tax Parcel ID: 53-104-3110

General Information

Taxpayer: FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Mailing Address:
PO BOX 95
GRAND MARAIS MN 55604-0095

Property Information

Property Address:
Section: 4 Township: 61N Range: 1E
Plat:
Deeded Acres: 5.57
Homestead: No
Summary Legal Description: PART
NW/NE/SW CEMETERY & E 16 FT OF W 655
FT

[Zoom to](#)

