

**Grinnell United Church of Christ – Congregational  
Governing Board Meeting  
Sunday, September 28, 2025  
11:45 am – 1:15 pm**

Members present: Nancy Brown, Molly Campe, Dorothy Noer, Jean Pendleton, Liz Rodrigues, Kelsey Sandeno, Kelly Sandquist; Pastor Jessica Margrave Schirm

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Kelsey Sandeno after an informal checking in with each other.

**MOTION:** Approve Minutes (draft 2) of August 19, 2025 meeting of the Governing Board (Liz/Kelly). Motion carried.

**Reports/Updates**

Pastor's Report. See attached report. Pastor Jessica explained how/why Grinnell UCC will be hosting the continuing education event for clergy on Friday, October 24 that is part of the Ames UCC Theologian-in-Residence weekend this year.

Church Membership Rolls. The list of members scheduled to be removed from the membership rolls was sent out in advance. After removing three names that were on two lists and one name in recognition of extenuating circumstances, action was taken.

**MOTION:** Approve removal of 27 members from the church membership rolls who meet criteria for removal and for whom the church does not have current contact information or who were contacted but did not respond (Nancy/Kelsey). Motion carried.

An additional 22 members self-selected to be removed from the membership rolls. Adding deaths recorded this year, these removals total 55, reducing the membership rolls to 131.

**Continuing Business**

Possible Restructuring. Kelly contacted Jessica Dillon who had no Bylaws to share that would be helpful to our discussion of blending endowment and governance responsibilities. Current thinking is to propose dropping the Endowment Committee and expanding the Governing Board by two members, one to be elected at large and one to be elected as the Endowment Liaison. This proposal will be taken by Kelsey and Pastor Jessica to the Endowment Committee meeting on Tuesday, October 21, followed by a congregational meeting discussion on Sunday, October 26, and the Governing Board meeting on Monday, October 27.

2026 Budget. Elizabeth prepared budget drafts showing the impact of applying endowment distributions of 5% or 6% and distributing those funds as done in 2025 or allocating all endowment distributions for operating expenses. A discussion of these scenarios will be included on the agenda for the congregational meeting scheduled for October 26. There was consensus that the budget needed to include a 2.5% cost of living increase for staff. The drop in number of members will be reflected in the OCWM contribution. The cost of insurance will need to be estimated.

Pastor Jessica requested discussion of the music ministry based on feedback she had received about expanding the program. The consensus was that the current budget would not support an expansion in 2026 absent some unforeseen circumstances, such as bequests or endowed gifts. The board will keep this issue close at hand, and it will be given further consideration in the 2027 budget.

Kelsey will send out an agenda for the congregational meeting with assignments for the presentations.

**NEXT MEETING** – Monday, October 27 at 6:30 pm with focus on finalizing a budget for 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy E. Brown, Clerk

10/13/2025