

First Reformed United Church of Christ June 2026 Consistory Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Rita Lohr

In attendance: Eddie Yates, Rita Lohr, Doris Sink, Shannon Myers, Camille Morgan, Ann Hoffman, Joe Browder, Jerry Lovell, Lena Johnson, Kivi Miller, Smithie Parrish, Zach Hedrick, Lisa Michael, Terry Bailey. Rev. Elizabeth Horton,
Absent:

Opening prayer- and call to order: Eddie Yates – Consistory President

Introduction and welcome to new Consistory members: Eddie Yates

Items of Action for Approval

*Board Reports	Motion: Jerry Lovell	Second: Joe Browder	Approved: All
*May Minutes	Motion: Shannon M.	Second: Camille Morgan	Approved: All
*Pastors Report	Motion: Camille M.	Second: Rita Lohr	Approved: All
*Financial Reports	Motion: Doris Sink	Second: Ann Hoffman	Approved: All
*Approval Blowing Rock Retreat (9/25-27 Blowing Rock Church Retreat – participants responsible for costs)	Motion: Smithie P.	Second: Eddie Yates	Approved: All
*Approval Nominating Committee (Smithie Parrish-Consistory President, remaining officers to be voted on at August 2026 meeting. New Consistory Members ordained 7/12)	Motion: Joe Browder	Second: Kivi Miller	Approved: All

Pastor's Report - Rev. Elizabeth Horton (verbal report)

- Thank you: to Eddie Yates for his leadership as Consistory President. His steadfast faith, commitment, servant's heart was our calm through the storm. His gifts were needed for this season in the life of this church.
- Good process of nominating and election of new Consistory members.
- We had communion and our annual picnic at Wildcat Mtn. Farm.
- Elizabeth attended Southern Conference meeting in Greensboro (part of Western Assoc.)
- First UCC building in Winston Salem has been sold.
- Elizabeth and Ellen attended the Worship/music conference in Montreat, NC. A thank you to Rev. June Grubb for covering while Elizabeth was away.
- Elizabeth states that she's excited about working with Consistory members stating that "God has called each of you here in this season of life of our church. Good time to be a guiding light in the community.

Extended Updates from Board Reports

- Finance report: (1) President reviewed the Financial Report. We closed May with negative balance of \$3495.26. Monies from Honorariums and memorials, \$3074.00. Balance in contingency fund to draw from when needed. Next check from Trustees in July and October. Looking at different format for financial snapshot.
- Property update: Minor plumbing fixture repairs in process. Beaver Brothers sanctuary boiler replacement in progress.

New Business Discussed

- September Blowing Rock Retreat (9/25/26): Smithie Parrish has applications for trip. Motion to approve church trip to Blowing Rock at participants expenses was raised and approved. Applications need to be in by the end of July.
- Nominating Committee: Slate of Officers – Smithie Parrish, President; Vice President to be nominated; Secretary: Rita Lohr; Treasurer: John Gray; a motion to approve the nominating committee's recommendation of the president as Smithie Parrish, with remaining officers to be voted on at the August Consistory meeting. Installation of new Consistory members to be Sunday, July 12, 2026
- Transition of Board Chairperson: Board Chairs are to be filled in July by appointment by the President. Smithie Parrish advised all Board Chairs going off Consistory to make a list of duties and members. Thriving Church teams will work with Boards/Committees

Old Business Discussed

- Thriving Church update: Elizabeth Horton –Thriving Church leadership team continues to meet. Signage team met 2 times. Grant team has been contacted. Infant/Toddler team in progress. Extended questions/discussion took place regarding long-term function of teams and boards. Challenges of who makes ultimate decisions. Thriving Church Leadership Team will remain in place for 6 months for continuity. Need to keep Thriving Church update on consistory agenda.
- Security Project update: Joe Browder – Project in progress. There will numbers and handouts at next consistory meeting in August.
- 125th Anniversary Committee update: Rita Lohr –Church picnic was well attended and highlighted the Anniversary year. Anniversary Committee plans to meet to discuss a service in September and November in addition to other ideas related to the 125th celebration.
- Internal Audit update: Joe Browder – Need to reinstate auditing of church operational accounts and endowment accounts. Internal audits were done by church members in the past. Administrator surveyed several area churches. A few did external audits which were expensive. (\$9000-\$20,000) UCC website, the state has an auditing packet with roles/responsibilities and checklist for internal audit, recommended annually. Possibly put together an Audit Committee, look for volunteers with financial background and independent of church finances. Need to keep audit committee on consistory agenda as old business for further discussion.
- Question raised about role of Consistory in Regard to role of Trustees. Eddie Yates: Eddie yates agreed to take questions from Consistory to Trustees meeting in July, 2026. If questions not resolved, schedule meeting with Trustees and Consistory.

Next Consistory scheduled for Sunday, August 9, 2026

Closing Prayer: Rev. Horton **Meeting Adjournment:** Eddie Yates