

First Reformed United Church of Christ August 2026 Consistory Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Rita Lohr

In attendance: Rita Lohr, Shannon Myers, Camille Morgan, Ann Hoffman, Joe Browder, Lena Johnson, Kivi Miller, Smithie Parrish, Zach Hedrick, Lisa Michael, Terry Bailey. Rev. Elizabeth Horton **Absent:** None

Opening prayer- and call to order: Smithie Parrish – Consistory President

God of our fathers and mothers, our brothers and sisters, we give you thanks for the opportunity to serve your church and the chance to share your great love with our community and to care for your children.

We ask for your Holy Spirit to lead our time together. Grant us wisdom as we review our agenda, clear minds as we discuss our plans, and discernment to make choices that honor you and help our community. Help us to listen to one another with patience, speak with kindness and keep the unity of peace in our hearts. May everything we decide bring glory to your name.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Welcome Packet: Consistory President reviewed – Organizational flow chart and board/committee leadership guide. The Welcome packet listed Consistory Boards and Board chairs. Smithie thanked everyone for their willingness to serve. She stated that they have flexibility in organizing their board. The goal is to work together and keep everyone informed. All boards are in a transitional process.

Items of Action for Approval

*Board Reports	Motion: Terry Bailey	Second: Camille Morgan	Approved: All
*June Minutes (<i>no July meeting</i>)	Motion: Shannon M.	Second: Lena Johnson	Approved: All
*Pastors Report	Motion: Camille M.	Second: Ann Hoffman	Approved: All
*Approval of Vice President (Ann Hoffman will serve as vice president)	Motion: Zach Hedrick	Second: Kivi Miller	Approved: All

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

I continue to be grateful for our Consistory members and the gifts, interests, and energy they bring to our life together. Your leadership is helping us meet the needs of our congregation in meaningful ways. It has also been a joy to welcome a variety of voices into our worship services. I'm especially proud of Skylyn, who offered her first spoken leadership during worship.

I'm thankful as well for our Continuing Education Fund, which made it possible for Ellen and me to explore new music and worship ideas that are already enriching our services.

Our Bereavement Ministry has been offering compassionate care through well-received receptions for families in times of loss. I will be away on September 20, and am working to secure someone to lead worship that morning. And I'm delighted that Heaven Zagura will be guiding a youth group interest meeting as we continue strengthening our ministries for young people.

Thank you for the many ways our church is adapting, responding to needs, and staying engaged across all ministries. Your faithfulness makes a difference.

Extended Updates from Board Reports

- **Finance report:** President reviewed the June/July finance report which closed in the positive. Balance position due to check from trust account. Questions were raised regarding logic of budgeted expenses, operating expenses, special benevolences, and non-budgeted expense format. Transparency is important, there's need to simplify the budget so it's easier to read. The Finance Committee will be meeting August 10th.
- **Property update:** Joe Browder and Ann Hoffman are co-chairs of the property committee. Joe has met with and had a walk through with Eddie Yates (past chair) providing past and present issues. Plan to look at security; with sanctuary furnace complete there are plans to follow up regarding maintenance through warranty period, connecting with Ann Hoffman to schedule meeting before next Consistory meeting.
- **Board of Worship:** Zach Hedrick plans to work with Ellen and Bruce on microphones, and with streaming to fix gaps.

New Business Discussed

- Role of teams: presented by Smithie Parrish and Rev. Horton - Teams are assigned to certain boards and may cross over to multiple boards with clear communication and collaboration. Some teams may exist for short time periods after accomplishing goals. Thriving Church will help form teams by providing names of people interested in area. Teams Chart explained. Chase Hanes is contact person for Thriving Church to provide names of people and also from Time/Talent sheets.
- Board of Evangelism: FRUCC will sponsor a booth at Lexington Pride on August 29th at Breeden Amphitheater from 11am
- Cuba Trip in January 2027: Guest speaker, Rev. Tom Warren to present trip Sunday, Aug. 30th. Discussion of fund raising.

Old Business Discussed

- Thriving Church update: Elizabeth Horton –taken from Thriving Church Booklet
 - The teams came from ideas/concerns of the congregation.
 - Thriving church will remain on to implement ideas/facilitate teams.
 - Teams are assigned to certain Boards and may cross over to multiple Boards.
 - There should be collaboration and clear communication.

Questions Raised:

Who resolves a situation where a team presents an idea and the Board does not approve and is there an appeal process where a vote can take place by Consistory? **Answer:** decisions are made by Consistory vote.

Next Consistory scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 13, 2026

Closing Prayer: Rev. Horton **Meeting Adjournment:** Smithie Parrish - President