

minutes

CFUMC Leadership Board

April 14, 2026

Meeting convened at 6:30 p.m.

Our Mission: Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our Vision: Ordinary people learning to love like Jesus.

Our Core Values: Connect, Equip, Commit.

Attendance

- Present: Andrea Alford, Joy Barrett, Curt Collins, Rick Fitzgerald, Heather Hay, Todd Hubbard, , Nolan Peterson, David Shaw, Mike Vanderspool.
- Absent: Jeff Melvin, Kasie Cousino.
- Guest: Susan Adam-Rita.

Opening prayer and spiritual formation

• David Shaw opened the meeting with prayer and also led a discussion about integrating spiritual disciplines into our lives by sharing how he integrates prayer and spiritual reflection into his weekly schedule. He talked about setting aside time each day for reflection or prayer and using online tools or other resources for support. Among the other tips he shared were reciting spontaneous prayers instantly when you see or hear a prayer-worthy event; taking notes about a Bible reading right in your Bible; reading the Bible in small bites to allow for reflection.

Leadership development

• Rick Fitzgerald shared best practices for good church communications and cited Chelsea First as an example for many of the key elements. Among the benchmarks cited for good church communications are clear, concise messages, the use of multiple communication channels and regular assessment of success. He also cited Chelsea First communications as excellent examples of these best practices.

Goals update

• Pastor Joy Barrett shared brief update on three overall church goals for this year – lifelong faith formation, hospitality and church demographics. Groups dedicated to each goal are moving forward with planning and execution of those plans.

Engagement report

• Senior Pastor Joy Barrett reported that a Get Acquainted session has been scheduled for May 9 for all in interested in learning more about Chelsea First and a total of 96 people are participating in the all-church book study.

Packet and consent calendar items

• The consolidated financial report from February and minutes from the March meeting were approved as presented.

Strategic and generative items

- Mike Vanderspool is working to determine a summer date for a town hall meeting in advance of the scheduled Aug. 4 planning session for the Leadership Board.
- Community event: The Leadership Board unanimously approved a request from the Rev. Rodney Gasaway for Chelsea First to lead the May 22 Trek for Vets event that will pass through Chelsea as part of a statewide events in support of military veterans. Rodney and Chelsea First volunteers, working with other community members, will greet veterans at the M-52 roundabout north of Chelsea and walk with them into town for an evening meal. There is no additional funding impact for this event.
- Support for immigrant neighbors: The Leadership Board had a discussion regarding a recommendation from the Social Justice Action Team to formally join the Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights network of area churches. Joining this group would allow Chelsea First to more vigorously live out the congregation's commitment to be a "vibrant, intentionally inclusive, justice seeking faith community."

While there was strong desire to support immigrant neighbors in these unsettled times, there were a number of questions about what it actually means for Chelsea First to be a more active part of this effort. Vicki and Gene Utke, who attended the Leadership Board meeting as representatives of the team, will gather additional information in the weeks ahead to resubmit the team's request in advance of the Leadership Board's next meeting, May 10.

Church trends:

- Moved to May meeting agenda in the interest of time.

Closed session

- Joy updated the board on a personnel matter.

Communication

- Rick Fitzgerald will draft a news item focusing on the action items.

Closing Prayer

- Rick Fitzgerald shared the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Recorded by Rick Fitzgerald