

What is your ministry area or Standing Leadership Group name?

Congregational Life

Author of this report: Suzanne Cole

List of the members currently serving on your ministry or leadership team:

- Bobbie Benjamin
- Suzanne Cole, chair
- Darla Gallo
- Shelley Laws
- Toni Pavolini
- Sarah Sherr
- Kevin Vernia
- Vicki Waterbury
- Jackie Williams

1. As you look at the goals you had planned for 2025, what were you able to accomplish?

Please be as specific as possible.

Goal 1. *We will continue to hold periodic fellowship opportunities.*

We met this goal by organizing several fellowship opportunities, including the annual meeting potluck, Easter breakfast and Lenten fellowship dinners. We also added two new activities: fall fellowship dinners and Gay Bingo

Goal 2. *We hope this year we will succeed in getting the membership to sign up to volunteer as hosts for Fellowship Hour. And we also hope that the congregation will be understanding on Sundays when there is no food at Fellowship Hour.*

We met this goal by coordinating volunteers for most Sundays. On very few Sundays there were no volunteers available. This continues to be a difficult task to stay on top of, as church members do not sign up without regular reminders.

Goal 3. *We plan to continue to reach out to new members to connect them to opportunities*

We worked with Michael to ensure that new members received appropriate information on opportunities to integrate into the life of the congregation.

2. How has your ministry's or leadership team's work and goals shifted throughout 2025 ?

We hoped to organize a camping trip for church members in the summer, but we were not able to find a leader to take charge.

We added two new fellowship opportunities: fall fellowship dinners and Gay Bingo

3. Where is your group or ministry area stuck? Do you need help in discerning who to ask to join your group or to get more involved?

Keeping on top of coordinating the volunteers for Fellowship Hour continues to be time consuming. (I hope that anyone reading this report will take a moment now to [sign up!!](http://tinyurl.com/OFRhospitality) <http://tinyurl.com/OFRhospitality>) The folks who sign up regularly are very much appreciated! But ensuring that there are at least three people scheduled each week takes a lot of effort.

Old First prides itself in being a welcoming congregation. Living up to this value means that individuals need to volunteer their time.

4. What has changed since returning to in-person/ hybrid ministry? How does your group imagine continuing to bridge the in-person/ hybrid gulf in 2026?

We have nothing new to say about hybrid ministry than we reported in last year's report.

5. What do you hope to accomplish in 2026?

- Goal 1. We will continue to hold periodic fellowship opportunities.
- Goal 2. We plan to continue to reach out to new members to connect them to opportunities
- Goal 3. We will coordinate with the 300th Anniversary committee to plan events around the kick-off in the fall of 2026

6. What are the ways that the church can support your team in achieving your goals for the upcoming year?

SIGN UP to host Fellowship Hour a few times this year!

<http://tinyurl.com/OFRhospitality>

As I step down from my role as chair of the Congregational Life SLG, I would like to take a moment to thank all the many people in the congregation who volunteer as Fellowship Hour hosts, potluck set-up/clean up crew, fellowship dinner hosts, etc. Your time and talent is very much appreciated! - Suzanne Cole