

Minutes of 2024 Annual Meeting

January 28th, 2024 11:15 am

Taken by Sanjay Cherian

Quorum

We had a quorum of 20 members with a requirement of at least 12.

Opening

The meeting was called to order by Peter Bretschneider (acting moderator) and opened in prayer by Reverend Catherine Merrill at 11:24.

Discussion of Annual Meeting Minutes from 2022

Linda Ashton moved to accept the minutes, Amy Razzaboni seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Review of Board Reports: Our Mission of Ministry

- **Outreach:** Amy thanked everyone for their support over the year.
- **Music:** Peter talked about the band's gratitude for the congregation's support and its openness to new members.
- **Diaconate:** Jill Aitken thanked everyone for their support over the year.

Bill Dunbar moved to accept the reports of our Mission of Ministry as written, Sue Haight seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Review of Board Reports: Our Mission of Stewardship

- **Publicity:** Candy Tiner noted that 1000 views on our YouTube channel is not 1000 unique people as some people watch more than one video.
- **Trustees:** Sue mentioned the upcoming flooring replacement in the kitchen and that she will need help moving appliances so we don't have to pay for it. She has a potential contact coming her way about repairing the steeple. She thanks everyone who helped with the various issues that came up over the course of the year.

Bill moved to accept the reports of our Mission of Stewardship as written, Ann Desrochers Panto seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Review of Current Church Initiatives

UMC Restructuring

- Ann: when the UMC split started, they put protocols in place to manage the process. This year, they were reminding churches that if they want to disaffiliate from the UMC, they need to have done it by now. There are still ways to do it but they're not technically "legal."
- Bill had looked at it. If the UMC held any of the church assets, leaving after the deadline would be more complicated. They voted to become a much more open and affirming church which puts us in a better position because we don't have conflict between the two denominations with which we're associated.

Summary of All-Church Meeting:

- Rev. Cath: it was just there because it was a big event in the life of our church.

New or Other Business

Nominations

- Several people are up for re-nomination and some are stepping down as their terms expire.
- Bill: there's now no finance committee and the treasurer is under the trustees from when we restructured our governing board structure.
- Peter is currently the acting moderator. He will do it again for the next year but will gladly give it up if someone wants to be moderator.
- Candy will keep doing publicity.
- UCC Delegates: will be assigned as needed.
- Diaconate: Barbara's term expired last year but she will re-enlist til 2025. Russell will continue as chair. Jill is stepping down from the board but will help as needed.
- Music Committee: Yi Fan & Jocelyn Jones had their terms expire years ago but Yi Fan is continuing to serve.
- Faith Formation: Candy is in a position with no formal expiration date for her term; we will leave it as-is. Ann notes that she and Candy should both be listed as members at large and not in a particular position.
- Outreach: is well-staffed. Donna's term expires this year but Peter expects her to continue. Outreach expects Maureen Lockwood to continue in her position. Board will remain unchanged.
- Pastoral Relations: We need to update Ann's role to show her as chair of the PRC and not the Assistant Moderator. Sanjay, Ann, and Bob agreed to remain on the PRC til 2025.

Barbara moved to accept the board positions as constituted from the above discussions and changes, Bill seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Financials

- Peter invited Bill to provide a summary of our financial situation.
 - Bill drew attention to the ending cash reserves of \$101,165.34 from 2023. He then referenced the budgetary shortfall for 2024, which is about a 44% deficit. He recommends using money from cash reserves as needed to get to within 10% budgetary balance as mandated by our constitution. This allows us to leave the trust funds alone.
 - Bob asked about the CDs in the report and Bill explained that 2023 is when we acquired CDs so 2024 is when we expect to have CD interest income for the whole year.
 - Susan Haight moved to accept the budget as presented, Nancy Dunbar seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
- Megan: asked if Sandy Garvin's bequest is in the reserves. Bill said yes.
 - Megan: just wants to make sure we do something meaningful with it.
 - Rev. Cath: is aware that it's an important issue for a number of people. She personally is looking for opportunities to do something meaningful with the Garvin's' gift that Sandy and her family would appreciate.
 - Peter: if there are ideas for how to do something good in her memory, bring them to the cabinet.
 - Bill: can move the money to a dedicated fund but there was no designation at the time it came in so he had no options.
 - Jill: does this mean that the money can't be spent without cabinet approval?
 - Bill: the cabinet has to approve it.
 - Rev. Cath: it does change our financial reporting because it moves out of our cash position.
 - John N: did the money come with instruction? Bill: no.
 - Peter: the reason for putting it in a dedicated fund is to maintain the knowledge that it came from Sandy.

- Sanjay moved that we move Sandy's bequest to a dedicated fund, Ann seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
- Peter: recommended we put it in a 6 month CD since we don't know what we want to do with it in the near-term.

Other

- Susan: the elevator is in good shape, was just inspected, and shouldn't get stuck.

Nancy moved to adjourn the meeting, Barbara seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Rev. Cath closed us in prayer at 11:55 am.