

Annual Meeting
October 11, 2020

Present: John Sampson, Karen Glass, Elizabeth Davidson Derr, Larry Shipps, Liz Jaques, Betsey Serjak, William Serjak, Shawn Lamarche, Hope Stone, Ethel Webb, Bernard Webb, Ingrid Carman, Joseph Carman, Charlotte Lichtenberg, Susan Doolittle, Lyn Barrett Bussian, Ron Bussian, Henrietta Jordan, Judy Caner, Christopher Blaicher, Naj Wikoff, Jewels Taylor-Wilde, Elaine Taylor-Wilde, Lorraine Duvall, Charlotte Poletti, Merle Tanis, Roger Tanis, Alana Both, Tom Both, Nancy McArthur, Mary Jane Huneycutt, Jim Huneycutt, Anne Hurd, Barbara Merle-Smith, Fritz Sabbow, Annie Scavo, Erica Swift, Susie Allen, Linda Bogardus, Sandy Robinson, Barbara Strowger.

The meeting was called to order at 11:07 AM.

Opened with a prayer from the Rev. John Sampson.

Moderator Karen Glass declared a quorum.

A motion was made by Elizabeth D. Derr to approve the minutes from the 2019 Annual Meeting. The motion was seconded by Naj Wikoff. Motion carried.

Karen Glass then reminded us what the Council had been looking into from last year's Annual Meeting (housing, tithing, timely report submissions, greener building/cleaner energy, less plastic use, more recycling, establishing a Financial Committee, lighting outside the back of the church, use of microphones during the annual meeting) and said that many had been touched upon by the Council or a committee of the Council.

A motion was made by Larry Shipps to accept the slate of officers presented by the Nominating Committee. They are: Moderator – Karen Glass ; Vice Moderator – Elizabeth Davidson Derr; Treasurer – Jimm Collin; Clerk – Deborah Mitchell; Members-At-Large – Chris Blaicher, Linda LaBarge, Dre Roebuck, Annie Scavo; UCC Annual Delegate(s) – Susie Allen; Alternate – Anne Hurd. The motion was seconded by Carol Blakeslee-Collin. The motion carried.

Next Karen presented the recommendation of the Council to re-open the church for services three months after a vaccine is widely available to the public. Naj Wikoff moved to accept the recommendation and Elizabeth D. Derr seconded. The motion carried with one abstention. There were some suggestions/comments as well. 1) That the Zoom option also be continued as we have many people attending the services from far away. 2) Would like to see something special during the Christmas season. (there will be a pageant). 3) Would we have to have had the vaccine in order to attend the services in person? (This question is in discussion).

Grounds – Pamela Gothner and Erica Swift will be taking over as Co-Chairs of the Grounds Committee from Ingrid Carman. Thank you Ingrid for these many years of ensuring that our grounds looked so beautiful!

Childcare – Henrietta announced that there will be a pageant this year.

Susan Doolittle moved to accept the reports. Jim Huneycutt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Larry Shipps, in the absence of Jimm Collin, presented the budget for 2021. Our income is expected to be \$198,705 and our expenses are expected as \$196,000. We will continue to take a 5% withdrawal from the Endowment Fund in order to help balance the budget.

Tom Both mentioned that there is a “potential” problem with the Sanctuary chandeliers. If it is found necessary to re-wire them, to accommodate energy saving lightbulbs, the cost would be approximately \$8,000. Larry said there is money in the “reserve” to satisfy this expense if needed.

Barbara Merle-Smith moved to accept the budget; Chris Blaicher seconded the motion. Motion carried

Karen is grateful to the church as everybody take a part. Would like to acknowledge a couple of people.

John told us how, in March, Martha Gallagher came forward to say that she thought she could help with putting the services online. It was “an answer to a prayer!” For many months following she and her husband Dennis provided us with the services, always adding wonderful pictures to accompany the music, etc. The Council voted to give them a gift certificate.

New Business - What should the Council consider this year?

Deepen our focus on Social Justice, especially anti-racism.

“Survive and Thrive” through Covid – If anyone has an idea, whatever it may be, please share your ideas.

Greater outreach.

Naj moved that we adjourn

John ended with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth M. Jaques