

## Annual Meeting Minutes, 2019

Once quorum was established with 56 members (out of 261 active members), Bob Williamson **called the meeting to order.**

Rev. Lisa **lit the chalice** and gave opening words.

Michele David discussed the **annual report** and thanked members of the board for their work. Emily Cherry noted that she would like to get annual report sent electronically before the meeting so people can digest it as well as not waste paper. Suggestion made to send out the PDF on Friday before annual meeting when it was complete.

We voted to **adopt the agenda.** David Moir asked for a report on building use by Sai Center. This will be discussed during budget discussion.

We voted to **accept the minutes from 2018.** Ron Wilkinson noted his name was misspelled on page 3.

We **voted to accept the new members.** Rev. Eliza Blanchard (welcoming committee) read the names out loud. The new members are:

- Marga Dieter
- Fred Andree
- Debba Andree
- Ann Eldridge Malone
- Megan Hansen
- Kathleen Higgins
- Zoe Perry-Wood
- Laurie Potter Graham
- Kerry Sangster
- John Sangster

We **recognized outgoing Parish Board and Committee members.**

- Michele David recognized outgoing Parish Board Members Alice Mark, Dave Cave, and Laura Hatfield.
- Carol Spitzer recognized Nancy Clark, outgoing Worship Committee co-chair.
- Sue Andrews recognized outgoing Nominating Committee members Melinda Maryniuk and Laura Walters, as well as herself!
- Eliza Blanchard recognized outgoing co-lead, Ann Dinsmoor, who is staying on the Welcoming Committee, but is at home recovering from surgery
- Gene Thompson-Grove recognized Michele David, outgoing Parish Board chair.

We **voted for elected officers and standing committee members.** All were accepted unanimously, with one abstention.

For Parish Board

- Karla Baehr
- Ellen Blaney

- Micaela Coady
- Bob Williamson

For Nominating Committee:

- Sarah Griffen
- Mitra Morgan

For Clerk:

- Karla Baehr

Sue Andrews discussed that Bob Williamson would like to step down as moderator. Because this was a late change it didn't make it on the slate. We will vote for a new nominee during a special fall 2019 congregational meeting, to be scheduled.

We moved into the **budget discussion** led by Charles Sandmel. Bob Williamson acknowledged the hard work, transparency, and openness to the congregation of the finance committee, in developing the budget. Charles noted that we raised \$38,000 outside of the pledge for outside charitable giving, most of which went to the BIJAN ("Beyond") immigration bail fund.

Briefly, we discussed revenue including the pledge, (which was down by 20 families this year,) building rentals, and our partnerships with building renters.

We discussed expenses including promotion of Laci from CRE to DRE, raises for section leaders, and engagement of a ministerial intern.

Because of the budget shortfall, we will need to take a larger draw from our endowment than in 2018.

We had a long conversation about our budget shortfall and draw from endowment. We discussed the efforts to increase giving, increase non-monetary contributions, and how we can draw out our budget cycle to allow more time to deal with financial issues. We discussed living within our means and how that could mean letting go of staff. We discussed that a ministry change always results in a reduction in pledges and hopefully that will rebound next year. We discussed marketing efforts for the church. We discussed commercial insurance. We discussed wanting to know how much money from our weekly offering collection goes to social justice issues. We acknowledged that as a congregation we are uncomfortable talking about money and that to be financially healthy this needs to be an ongoing discussion, not one that comes around between the short time of pledge and annual meeting. We discussed that pledges have not varied substantially even among our most engaged members. There were no specific comments made on line items in the budget.

**Vote to approve the withdrawal of the principal from the endowment** to pay for operations as set forth in the proposed FY2020 budget:

- 51 approve
- 3 no
- 1 abstain

**Vote to approve the budget** passed by a majority with one no vote and one abstention.

We **sang** "When our heart is in a holy place".

We **extinguished the chalice**.

We **moved to adjourn**.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Mark,

Clerk