

Annual Meeting Minutes

June 3, 2018

Meeting logistics:

- The Board Secretary indicated that there were 124 members present, which was sufficient for a quorum.
- The members voted to approve the agenda.
- The members voted to approve the minutes from last year.

Introduction: Board Chair Kristi Chilton and Rev. Cayer shared the highlights from the year including the following:

- Rev. Brett was ordained. She is also able to remain as Assistant Minister for the 2018-2019 congregational year.
- Visioning weekend is planned for October.

Justice Ministry update:

- There is a strong relationship with Urban Ministries, working with the homeless population. ERUUF's Homeless Action group was the top volunteer contributor to Urban Ministries in the community.
- Sister Communities of San Ramon continues its work in creating just and sustainable communities.
- ERUUF is an important member of Durham CAN. Longtime ERUUF member, Amassa Fautleroy, was recognized as playing an important role.
- Earth Justice began a multi-year effort to get recognized as a Green Sanctuary congregation and organized the Blue Boat weekend.
- Interweave participated in PrideFest in Durham.
- The Refugee and Immigrant Action group supports involvement with refugees.
- Advancing Democracy is an umbrella group advocating for democracy including work with You Can Vote, a non-profit voter education group.
- Justice ministry submitted a letter opposing militarization of the Durham police department.
- Future areas of action including working on the Poor People's movement and a study group on creating a sanctuary for immigrants.

Strategic Plan update: Rev. Cayer presented an overview of the Strategic Plan. Sources for the plan include congregational input sessions, strategic plans from teams, the Board retreat, and the Pulse survey. The strategic plan is posted on the website. It is color coded to indicate whether something has been completed (green), is in progress (yellow) or has not yet been addressed (no color). The plan is followed by ministry teams.

Pulse Survey: Julie Edmunds provided an overview of results from the Pulse Survey. The full report is available on the website and ministry teams can request more detailed information.

Stewardship update: Stewardship is about ensuring sustainability. The current endowment belongs to the Eno River Fellowship Foundation, which has assets of approximately \$900,000 and has awarded \$350,000 in grants.

A grant from the Foundation to the Stewardship Team led to the hiring of a consultant on stewardship, Mark Ewert. He identified the need for a more robust stewardship program, including planned giving, and for more coordination of stewardship structures.

There are two new task forces, one focused on a Planned Giving and one to look at the organizational structure. Planned Giving is a mindful decision to give assets to a charitable organization. These assets can take a variety of forms. A fully implemented Planned Giving program would offer donors a variety of opportunities. There will be opportunities for the congregation to provide input on the structure and use of these gifts as the task force develops the program. And, there is a current Legacy Challenge, where a portion of new Planned Gifts will be matched up to \$10,000. The challenge is time-sensitive. Members are asked to complete a card to indicate their interest in participating in a Planned Giving program.

Campus Needs and Special Campaign Update:

- We fulfilled the commitment to pay off the mortgage.
- We have established a Reserve Fund to maintain support for campus needs. The Board and Finance Committee are developing policies for this fund.
- We have invested a portion of funds not immediately needed in Self-Help Credit Union.
- We will invest in two separate studies for the campus and to examine technology infrastructure needs.
- The expectation is to continue to contribute to the reserve in the annual budget at an amount that is sufficient. The Board will continue to evaluate the reserve on an annual basis to ensure that it is sufficient.

Questions: A member wanted to confirm that the interest from the Reserve was being kept in the Reserve. It was confirmed that this was the case.

Budget:

- Total expenditures were included in the provided budget.
- Any budget surpluses are placed in one or more reserve funds at the end of the year.
- The budget is presented at a higher level of detail. Additional details are available at the quarterly Finance Forums.
- Priorities including increase to the UUA, staff Cost of Living increases, and some additional hours.
- Things that were not funded at desired levels including professional learning expenses, funds for administration. We were not able to accommodate increases for ministry teams.
- We are moving toward presenting the budget in a programmatic way.

Members of the congregation had the following questions/comments on the budget:

- Were there specific priorities identified in the stewardship campaign? If so, the commenter had missed it.
- What does the outreach (under Social Justice and Outreach) include? Response: That includes Durham CAN.
- It would be more useful to have the median pledge—include distributional information about pledges.
- If the Facilities Reserve fund becomes large, we may want to consider not putting in additional funds.
- Why did the average pledge per household decline? Response: The Stewardship Team will be looking at this; it is likely that this is because of the increase in pledging units.
- What is happening to the Justice Council budget next year?
- A member wanted more detailed information and not higher-level information.
- A member was wondering if some of the “extra” funds earned from the Special Campaign could be used for operating expenses. Response: They can only be used for campus needs.
- Question: Was there a contribution to the UUSC? Response: That is not currently part of the budget. There is no expectation of congregational contributions to the UUSC.
- Dick Chady offered a motion of amend the budget to add \$5000 to the budget to support a justice coordinator for the last month of the fiscal year. Discussion included points that it is unclear where the additional funds would come from and that this would represent an additional commitment moving forward.
 - The motion was defeated.
- A motion to approve the budget was made and seconded.
 - The motion passed.

Report by the Nominating Committee:

- Members were sought for Board of Trustees, Healthy Congregation Committee, and Nominating Committee.
- The following individuals were nominated for the Board of Trustees: Joan Tilghman, Bonnie LaCroix, and Lenora Harris-Field.
- Melissa Godwin was nominated for the Healthy Congregation Committee
- The following individuals were nominated for the Nominating Committee: Bob Hetes (1 year term), Susan Hayman, Kendall Morgan, and Sam Wohns.
- A motion to accept all nominations was made and seconded.
 - The motion passed.

Summary of votes taken:

- The minutes from the 2017 congregational meeting were approved.
- A motion to amend the budget was defeated.
- The budget, as submitted to the congregation, was approved.

- The slate of nominees for the Board (Joan Tilghman, Bonnie LaCroix, Lenora Harris-Field), for the Healthy Congregation Committee (Melissa Godwin), and for the Nominating Committee (Bob Hetes, Susan Hayman, Kendall Morgan, and Sam Wohns) was approved.

Submitted by Julie Edmunds, Secretary, Board of Trustees