

2017 Annual meeting minutes, Bar Harbor Congregational Church, UCC

Acting Moderator Al Simons called the meeting to order at 11:07 AM, November 12, 2017.

Pastor Rob Benson offered an opening prayer.

Deputy Clerk Kathe Simons read the Call to the Meeting.

Deacon Debby Hammond reported that there are 176 Covenant Members, requiring a quorum of 44 members. A count of hands was conducted; a quorum was present.

Reports

The moderator asked whether there were any changes or additions to printed reports, and called each staff member, officer, board, committee, and organization in turn. The following had no corrections or additions to their printed report:

- Staff: Pastor, Director of Christian Education, and Director of Music;
- Officers: Moderator;
- Boards: Christian Education, Outreach, Trustees, Council;
- Committees: Music, Flower, Pastor-Parish Relations, Organizational Study Group; and
- Organizations: Women's Auxiliary, Called to Care.

The following made corrections or additions to their printed report, or offered comments:

Clerk

Clerk Al Simons asked whether there were any corrections to the Minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting. Deb Wade was on Nominating Committee. The minutes from the Annual Meeting should be published promptly after the meeting is held.

Delegates

Recently, the Sunrise Association had an Ecclesiastical Council for Susie Maxwell. Her ordination will be in January; Kathy Woodside encouraged members of our church to attend. Kathy just had her first training as a member of the Board for the Maine Conference. Al Simons thanked Kathy for taking on that role.

Deacons

Debby Hammond thanked members of the Hospitality Committee (subcommittee of Deacons). They provide hospitality to church and guests whenever needed; called upon for pot lucks, memorial services, etc. She thanked Karen McFarland, Cindy Fox, Cas Dowden, Ruth Rossi Blaney, Sarah Nevells.

Treasurer's report

Scott Hammond reviewed the Financial Report. He pointed out the profit/loss statement; there is a new category: Special Offerings which is the Sunday morning mission giving. The church matches the amount given up to \$480 each month. We have a strong balance sheet as the end of September. Healthy balances abound and this isn't always the case. It's been a strong year for the growth of the endowment. We made a payment from the checking account to reduce the balance on the loan we

made to ourselves; this year we paid it down by another 10K. 30K has been paid on the loan over the last two years. Trustees also decided to move some money from checking into our building fund.

Scott presented the Draft budget and noted that it's a little higher than 2016. A noticeable change – 5000 budgeted for Mission giving. There is a 2% increase in all staff salaries.

Kathy Woodside asked about the Minister's Discretionary Fund – It was a -0- line item last year and this year. Pastor Rob explained that he gets money for the discretionary fund from the Ladies' Auxiliary, some direct contributions, and interest from an annuity.

Karen McFarland asked about the parsonage. Are all expenditures for that property being compensated for in the budget? Scott Hammond reported that it was budgeted for 2K (same as last year); there is a separate building fund. We added 5K to the building fund to be used for maintenance on both the parsonage and church building. Scott suggested that we increase the building fund in the future to take care of both buildings as they age. Rent has been covering upkeep/repairs at the parsonage to date.

Andy Baron asked why we don't sell the parsonage. Scott Hammond reported that the rent has covered expenses to date. It's a matter for trustees. To date, it's seen as an investment. Sandy McFarland explained that there was discussion on Trustees about this. He worries that the sewer line and other expected problems in the future might mean that it needs to be thought about again.

Joan Carey noted that parsonage income was 16.8k and expenses 12k+, and asked whether the rent is appropriate. She encouraged the trustees to consider if the rent is appropriate.

Kathy Woodside pointed out that anyone who owns a home knows you need to maintain a building to maintain its value. Knowing the real estate market, we might need the parsonage if in the future we called a minister who might need housing. To find affordable housing on this island would be virtually impossible given what we pay a minister. As long as we can support the property and it pays for itself (we may need to look at the rent), she suggests we should hang onto it.

Deb Wade (member of Trustees) said that this is a topic that gets discussed at great length by trustees. There is room for three more members on the Trustees. She encouraged others to consider joining to help contribute to the conversation.

Sandy McFarland points out that we pay a housing allowance and that that doesn't change. The parsonage is an older building and needs ongoing care that fluctuates in cost.

Rodney Fox pointed out the difference between Covenant member and parish member: only Covenant members can call a pastor and sell property. Covenant members who are interested in this topic can always serve on Trustees.

Scott Hammond suggested that the trustees continue to analyze this, gather some information, and share it with the congregation.

Joan Carey moved that the proposed 2018 budget be adopted as presented. Andy Baron seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

A card is being circulated for the church in Texas to let them know that we are with them and to send them God's love from Maine.

Pastor Rob added to the Historian's Report: Jason LeVasseur and Elizabeth Sargeant were married; Isaac Marnik and Elizabeth Adkins were married.

Nominating Committee report

Debby Hammond presented the report and thanked all for sharing their passion by saying yes when asked. Additions and clarifications to the report included:

Treasurer – Scott Hammond

Historian – Debby Dyer

Flower Committee – Binky MacQuinn

Andy Baron – PPR (Pastor-Parish Relations)

Deacons – Wendy Fehlauer and Jennifer Weber are splitting a position

Marti Torbeck is the Haiti liaison for Outreach

Deb Wade will serve as a trustee for half the year; Lindsay Shopland volunteered for the other half.

Al Simons will serve as Clerk and is only available for the first half of the year.

Openings:

We need one more member for CE; one more for Deacons; and one more for Trustees.

We also need one more 'member at large' for Church Council; Kathy Woodside volunteered.

Scott Hammond moved the slate of officers and board and committee members as modified. Joan Carey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Joan Carey moved that the meeting be adjourned. Jan Varnum seconded the motion.

Acting Moderator Al Simons asked Pastor Benson to offer a closing prayer.

The meeting was declared adjourned without objection.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathe Simons, Deputy Clerk