

CCDC Congregational Meeting

January 26, 2020

Call to Order, Opening Prayer, Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Tom Csatari at 11:18 am and the opening prayer was given by Associate Pastor Rob Grabill.

Approval of Minutes from the June 2019 Congregational Meeting: Tom: In the Membership and Communication Board report of the June 2019 Congregational Meeting minutes, Rob Grabill reported that a church directory with photos had been released. A member asked when a 2020 photo directory will be published. Rob responded that a regular directory will be published quarterly and a picture directory each June. The minutes of the June 2019 Congregational Meeting were approved.

Budget Presentation, Discussion and Approval:

Judy Csatari, President of the Board of Elders began an overview of the **2020 Pledge Campaign** by thanking everyone for giving so much of their time, talent and treasure. The Elders had hoped for an increase in the number of pledge units as well as an increase in the amount pledged for 2020. The number of units decreased from 215 to 213 but 47% of the pledge units increased their pledge amount. The total pledged is \$451,154 so the operating budget will be based on \$450,000 to provide a little cushion. In comparison, the total pledged in 2019 was \$458,000. Judy concluded by emphasizing that we are very blessed to be in such strong financial position.

Budget Presentation: Tom began by reviewing the Budget Tenets which were approved by the Elders in 2017 and reaffirmed in 2018: The annual budget will align with and support CCDC's Covenant, it should be balanced, provide all CCDC staff with living wage salaries and competitive benefits and be available for review by the Congregation. The 2020 budget was developed with extensive consultation from Boards of Deacons chairs, FAC and the Board of Elders who moved that it be presented to the congregation for approval. The effort was truly collaborative. Kudos to Jay Bensen and Terry Martin who worked very hard on the 2020 budget, and to Jay Benson and Tom who continue to reconcile the 2019 balance sheet (budget vs. income and expenses). Tom's presentation focused on the *2020 Draft Budget* document which was released to the congregation for the meeting. Highlights include: Income from leases is projected to increase by \$11,000 due to two renters in the Student Apartment. CCDC's donation to OCWM, projected to be \$102,000 will be over \$100,000 for the first time. Although employee health insurance costs continue to rise, we will be able to offer a 3% increase in wages. Costs for fuel and building insurance will increase slightly. The Worship & Music budget is \$5,000 less than in 2019 because the regularly scheduled organ maintenance occurred last year. Moving forward, the budget will include a \$1,000/year Organ Reserve Fund so that after 5 years \$5,000 will be available when the next organ rebuild is scheduled. While still preliminary, there may be a surplus in the 2019 budget due to pledge income greater than budgeted, accounting services less than budgeted and a designated building gift that has not been spent. The church's assets grew significantly as did the stock market in 2019.

Discussion: A member of the congregation asked whether the United Church Funds invest in fossil fuel companies. Tom said that he will find out. Another member asked what the timeline is for solarizing the building. Judy responded that while estimates have been gathered for putting panels on the flat roof (\$50,000 - \$100,000) to undertake such a large and encompassing project warrants planning and financing that may be better suited to a capital campaign. The alternative, pulling from endowment funds would be

significant. Elders will consider the ramifications of a capital campaign later this year. A member asked if we should have a Sabbatical Reserve Fund. Per their calls, Mandy has the option to take a sabbatical after 5 years & 6 weeks of service and Rob after 5 years and 12 weeks of service. Finally, a member asked if we should be concerned about the loss of cell tower rental income. Evan Smith (FAC member) answered that the different cell phone company leases are staggered so that they don't all begin and end at the same time but that since the proposed merger between T Mobile and Sprint was approved, we will lose one of their leases, for sure.

A motion was brought to accept the preliminary results of the 2019 budget and the proposed 2020 budget as presented. The motion was seconded. No discussion. The vote to approve was unanimous. No abstentions.

Ratification of Member to Serve on the Board of Elders: Canny Bensen, Nominating Committee Chair, recommended to the Board of Elders that Evan Smith fill the one-year seat vacated when Bruce Smith moved to Concord, NH. Evan and the Elders accepted this recommendation. Those in attendance at the congregational meeting were then asked to ratify the Elders' acceptance of Canny's recommendation, which they did.

There was **no Other Business**.

After a **closing prayer** by Reverend Mandy Lape-Freeberg, the meeting was adjourned at 11:57 am.

Respectfully yours,

Jackie Paulsen

Clerk