

First Congregational Church UCC Annual Meeting

December 10, 2017

Moderator Peace Young called the meeting to order at 12:00.

Assistant Moderator Frank Baldwin opened with prayer.

A quorum was affirmed with 52 members present.

The minutes of the December 11, 2016 Annual Meeting were approved as written.

The slate of officers nominated for the 2018 Church Council was presented by Jim McPartland of the Nominating Committee (*new to Council):

Moderator: *Sarah Vasquez

Assistant Moderator: *Anne Sullivan

Past Moderator: Peace Young

Secretary Treasurer: *Catherine Clark

Members-at-large: *Paris Hancock (one year term)

Karin Wriggle (two year term)

*Bill Greene (three year term)

A motion was made and seconded to elect the slate unanimously; there was no discussion. The motion was passed unanimously.

The slate of members nominated for the 2018 Nominating Committee was presented by Ann Laskey of the Selection Committee (*new to Committee):

Karen Horn

Scott Sorenson-Jolink

Tim Pollard

*Bill Cunitz

Lesley Sepetoski

*Dan Schauer

A motion was made and seconded to elect the slate; there was no discussion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Thanks were given to those who worked on this year's Nominating Committee and Selection Committee.

A power-point presentation on the background thinking of the Budget Committee was presented by Sarah Vasquez. The presentation affirmed that approving the Budget creates a Covenant among members. The Budget is a significant document designed to enable the continuation of our Church's history and heritage, to guide our current work,

and to make us accountable and transparent. Sarah also offered her personal goals as Moderator for the coming year: to explore partnering possibilities within the church family as a way of getting to know one another better and building stronger relationships; to create more possibilities for intergenerational exchanges; and to continue the work of making our spaces safe and secure for all who enter them.

Belinda Moos then presented the 2018 Proposed Budget, noting that it is a moral document created to support our Church's ministries. Major changes evident in the 2018 Budget include:

- less revenue from pledging;
- increased revenue from venue use;
- expanded roles of current staff
- an additional staff position focused on Youth Ministry;
- an audit.

Belinda affirmed that the Church's net liquidity is solid.

Questions and comments were offered:

- The musicians are deserving of raises. That was affirmed but noted that Budget cuts were called for this year and there was no money for raises for them. One of the goals for 2018 is to spend time in visioning ways to improve our finances; more money for musicians is a recognized goal.
- MACG funding was eliminated. This was also due to the need to cut and reallocate in this year's Budget.
- Our Business Manager is essential to our financial stability and growth, and Cara is a wonder-worker on the Church's behalf.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the proposed 2018 Budget as presented. The motion was passed unanimously.

Recognition and thanks were given to 2017 outgoing leadership: Church Council members Frank Baldwin, Al Horn, Belinda Moos, Karen Hurst, Christian Logerstedt and, in particular, Peace Young; and Anne Sullivan and Jim McPartland from the Nominating Committee.

Pastors Elizabeth Durant and Michael Ellick led a closing prayer which included naming those from the Church family who died this past year.

We shared a song and adjourned the meeting at 1:00.