1. Moderator, Kevin Geiger, at 12:13 p.m. opened the meeting with 60 members in attendance.

2. Welcome - Richard Waddell Co-Chair of the Board, on behalf of Board of Trustees, welcomed those in attend with a reading from Saint Theresa.

3. Election of 2019 Moderator - Nominating Committee nominates Kevin Geiger motion made by Deb Rice on behalf of Nominating Committee and seconded by Jenny Gelfan.

4. Election of 2019 Clerk - Deb Rice on behalf of Nominating Committee nominates Hope Yeager. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Election of Treasurer - Deb Rice on behalf of Nominating Committee nominates Ann Wynia. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Election of Nominating Committee Nominee - The Board, represented by Marcia Peterson, nominates Barbara Abraham. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Presentation of Annual Report - Joby Thompson made a motion to accept the Annual Report, seconded by Jenny Gelfan. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Presentation and Action on 2019 Budget: Lynn Peterson made a motion to accept the budget as written and seconded by Susan Inui. The motion passed unanimously.


   b. Discussion of North Chapel’s Current and Future Finances: Opportunities and Challenges in our changing Environment - Susan Inui reviewed list of pledging units and amounts collected in NUCS Stewardship Drives since 2007. To date for the 2019 drive 101 units have pledged a total amount of $141,261.

   c. Discussion of the 2019 budget and vote to approve the 2019 budget - Richard Waddell discussed the new social justice work of the Strengthening Families/Building Communities initiative which has financial support from outside organizations including the $50,000 matching grant from the Byrne Foundation which the North Chapel successfully matched. Richard discussed the challenge of meeting the fundraising goals for 2019. The Board worked with the Finance Committee to build the 2019 budget including increasing Geraldine’s time to support her expanding work on the social justice initiative. The Board decided to give Geraldine a $3,500 bonus to pay her for time that she had worked and not been paid for. Diane Mellinger also received a bonus. The plan 2019 and 2020 is to continue to expand the social justice initiative further into the greater Woodstock community. The Board plans to ask the Byrne Foundation for another matching grant for this 2019-2020 social work through the Strengthening Families/Building Communities (SF/BC) initiative. The Board is considering how to address the current deficit between the Stewardship Drive and the 2019 Budget. Denise Lyons spoke to the choices facing NUCS in how to
keep North Chapel vibrant spiritually and financially as well. The Board is considering various approaches in how to address the deficit. Polly Forcier asked if going to the Byrne Foundation for another grant: is that a one-time thing or is that an ongoing way to sustain the expanded SF/BC program at Riverside Park. Richard Waddell answered that the Byrne Foundation grant would be applied for when expanding the scope of the SF/BC initiative.

d. Finance and Trustee of Funds Committee Report - Jim Swift, Finance Committee Chair: The current deficit is covered by the work of the Resource Development Committee. Susan Inui highlighted the fact that the Social Justice Fund has $160,000 raised which will continue to cover expenses. $15,000 was spent in 2018. $145,000 are still in the Social Justice Fund which will continue to be used for this social justice work. Polly Forcier pointed out the work that Linda Galvao has been doing with the Haven. Polly hopes it can be funded by the church in a more formal way. Norwood asked if anyone is considering the costs associated with needs of the building. Michael Stoner explained that about half of the money spent on the building was to remediate problems. Insulation has been blown into the space below Geraldine’s office. Leaks were beginning to be fixed in the roof last June. Money was raised in an independent capital campaign to cover those expenses. Norwood voiced concern about the needs of the building and the costs associated with those needs. Jenny Gelfan as a member of Buildings and Grounds pointed out the portion of the 2019 budget which is assigned to the parsonage. This money will address the dampness problem there.

9. Strengthening Families, Building Community Update

a. Key accomplishments - Geraldine Fowler spoke to the vision of the social justice initiative: One community where all can thrive. The mission is to provide experiences, relationships, and resources that advance equal access to holistic wellness for all within the broader Woodstock community—especially children, youth, and families - by working in collaboration with partner organizations and networks. This initiative was officially launched in June, 2018. As a part of this work, Geraldine has joined the Health and Wellness Network and the Woodstock Visioning Steering Task Force. The programming is being developed based on needs that become evident. Creating intentional communities is an important part of the work. This is how the programming at Safford Commons was developed. Geraldine runs a weekly after school group for kids at the NW Library and a bi-weekly Divorce Support Group. For the next six months the Advisory Panel will be working on a visioning process. Jenny Gelfan asked if the SF/BC initiative might take on a life of its own the way that Sustainable Woodstock did. Geraldine said that the community visioning process will inform what happens next. She is hopeful that the visioning process opens more funding opportunities. Beyond that, it is hard to tell in what ways this work changes and expands. J Kelly asked how people who are working can help out with the children.

10. Facilities for the Future Update - Michael Stoner explained that there are a lot of repairs to do. Renovations will begin in June. Repair work, insulation, spaces getting re-worked such as the small office space in front of Geraldine’s office, the back room
and library will get combined into a larger meeting space which will allow for walls to get insulated in the process. There will be volunteer opportunities to help clean and clear the spaces when this work is being done.


12. Unsung Hero - presented by Anne Dean on behalf of the Board of Trustees. This year the award goes to Gina Auriema for the daily check-ins with contractors, and continuing to work to keep the church looking beautiful on a constant basis and in a myriad of ways.

Richard Waddell asked to speak before the close of the meeting to thank the members of the Board, Leon, and committee chairs for their work and commitment.

13. Closing - Leon spoke about going to speak at the Woodstock Union High School to celebrate and honor Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. He read a poem by Nina Simone about Martin Luther King, Jr.

Adjournment - Susan Inui made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Lynn Peterson. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Hope Yeager, Clerk