

June 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes

Attendance: 63 church members – With 63 members in attendance a quorum was established.

Call to Order – Pete Mueller called the meeting to order at 11:34 am.

Opening Prayer – Pastor Sal opened the meeting with a prayer.

Meeting Agenda – Pete Mueller provided an overview of the meeting's agenda.

Minutes – Minutes from the June 2018 meeting were presented. Laurie VanDenBeldt moved to approve the minutes. Jane Grady second. Minutes were approved.

Pastor's Letter –

Church growth - Pastor Sal recognized the amazing growth in church membership. Including the new members joining on June 30, Douglas UCC will have over 250 members. Pastor Sal noted that a couple had visited Douglas, MI specifically to attend a worship service at Douglas UCC. They were from Columbus, Ohio and enjoy listening to the message and music via the weekly videos.

New logo – The new logo shows the new expansion of the church beyond our walls.

New website – This allows us to share our mission and activities in our immediate and larger communities.

Spiritually Active Groups – These groups include Stephen Ministers, Congregational Care, Christian Neighbors, Douglas Elementary School Tutoring, Social Justice, and Creation Justice. Stephen Ministry – Paul Burdick and Tim Schwartz have been the leaders of this ministry. Laurie VanDenBeldt has just returned from leadership training and will be joining Tim and Paul.

Volunteers – Pastor Sal thanked Michael VerMerris for his service as the Sunday volunteer coordinator. Pastor Sal also thanked the volunteers who take care of bulletins on a weekly basis and all those who share their time, talents, and treasures.

Music Ministry – Pastor Sal expressed his gratitude to our Director of Music, Jeff Spangler; our exceptional pianist, Peter Black; and all of our talented singers and musicians.

Other Church Committees – Pastor Sal highlighted the work of all of the other church committees. He noted that approximately \$30,000 had been awarded

to local 501(c) 3s including Children's First Lakeshore, AHA at Sundance Center, and Ladders of Hope.

Concluding comments – Pastor Sal noted that with our continued growth it will be difficult to accommodate all in a comfortable and safe manner. Coming up with positive solutions will be a priority in the future. He also emphasized that we are a Congregational Church and will remain connected to God as decisions are made.

Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC)– Glynis Whitcomb and Greg Sherman presented information about the work of this committee and introduced the members. Glynis explained the origin of the committee and its emphasis on facilitating communication. She provided examples of the committee's work this year including identifying volunteers to help with some of Pastor Sal's responsibilities. Greg explained the purpose of a pastoral sabbatical and indicated that Pastor Sal will take a three-month sabbatical beginning in January 2020. The PRC will meet with congregants to think through and share ideas for Sunday morning services during the sabbatical. These meetings will be a time to come together and explore ways to serve each other. The meetings will be held on 6/23 at 11:30 am, 6/26 at 6:30 pm, and 6/30 at 11:30 am.

Facilities Committee – Mary Fechtig provided an update on the activities of this committee since August 2019. They have been meeting at least two times per month to identify an architectural partner to work with as we explore ideas to accommodate our growth. The Mayotte group was selected because of its experience with churches. Recently the Mayotte group facilitated two visioning sessions with congregants. The committee will meet with the Mayotte group on June 17 at 7pm in the Friendship Hall to discuss ideas shared in the visioning sessions. Some of the committee members will change in the future. Additional information will be shared at the end of summer.

Proposed Budget – Mike Boston presented the 2020 budget and highlighted the assumptions underlying the budget. The assumptions noted include the following.

- o Collections are forecast to increase 2% over FY 2019.
- o Mission Spending for FY 2020 is budgeted at \$33,760.
- o The 2020 budget does not include any cost for the facility examination. These will be accounted for separately.
- o Maintenance is forecast to decrease by \$12,991.
- o Funds of about \$21,000 have been budgeted for an administrative assistant.
- o Over the past three years we have transferred \$121,537 to investment funding for church use.

Mike noted that we have submitted a grant to the Lilly Foundation for expenses related to the sabbatical.

Frederick Royce moved the budget be approved. Laurie VanDenBeldt second. Budget was approved.

Financial Oversight Committee – Will Gervais acknowledged members of the Investment Advisory Committee and reviewed the origin of the Isabel Graham Fund. He indicated that her \$5,000 bequest in the 1950s grew to \$1,000,000 by the year 2000. The fund allowed us to provide emergency operating expenses when past church membership was very low, to purchase 88 Spring Street and provide \$30,000 each year to Mission Grants. Will provided additional information on the Isabel Graham Fund and the policy of asset distribution. This was changed in October 2018 so that 50% of the funds are invested in a fixed income fund and 50% were invested in equities funds with 5% invested in a socially responsible fund titled Beyond Fossil Fuels Equity Fund. Total investments for 2018/2019 were valued at \$1,169,662 as of June 14, 2019. Will explained that during the past year the committee had developed an Endowment and Financial Assets Policy and worked on a planned giving microsite that will be tied our church's website for the support of our Planned Giving Program.

Planned Giving – Julie Ridl has volunteered to facilitate the Planned Giving Committee. She shared that the UCF is very comprehensive in nature and our own policy offers the opportunity to donate funds in a variety of areas. The Planned Giving Committee will help donors work with their own investment advisor or attorney. If others are interested in serving on this committee, please contact julie@ridl.com.

New Council Members – Pastor Sal thanked Greg Plowe, Mike Boston, and Karen Clark for their work in various Council positions. Pete Mueller was nominated to serve as Council Moderator for a two-year term. Congregation approved. Pete Mueller then nominated David Geen to serve as an At-Large member of Council, Beverly Hawkes to serve as Recording Secretary, and Gemina Petruzzelli to serve as Treasurer. Chris Clark moved. Jane Grady second. Council nominations were approved.

Comments –

Dan Mack suggested that ideas shared during a previous transitional period be shared during the upcoming meetings facilitated by the PRC.

Max Matteson acknowledged the work that Greg Plowe did to update the Constitution and Policies and suggested that the work continue.

Mike Boston thanked the congregation for supporting his work as Council Treasurer over the past 4 years.

Adjourned – meeting was adjourned at 12:35 pm.