

Meetinghouse Church

4/24/2022 Annual Church Meeting Minutes

On-site and Zoom meeting

Onsite participants exceed By-Laws quorum (75).

11:04 Call to Order

Moderator Cheryl Southard

Quorum met

11:05 Opening Prayer

Senior Deacon, Wendy Senior

The Prayer of Relational Intent

Vote on Electronic Voting for the Meeting

Motion to allow electronic voting for this meeting (unanimous) - **motion carries**

11:08 Ministry Highlights by Colonial Staff

Jeff Lindsay and Sara Wilhelm Garbers

- Voted to be the sixth senior pastor of the church, followed by the pandemic.
- Sunday morning worship - series of preaching themes including Letters from a Friend, One Another, now The Church on Mission.
- We have members that have found us online and now come in person.
- Wrestled with the decision as a congregation about changing our name.
- Chose a new name that will guide us into the future.
- Programming: Monday Morning Meditation is getting hundreds of views. Faith & series, Faith & Family. Advent devotional. Lenten Devotional, Palm Sunday, Holy Week.
- Determining ways to connect with families, seniors, and all congregants.
- Built a tiny house in the parking lot - that community is finally able to settle into the house this season.
- Missions of the Month all year - encouraging participation and to empower them to do their work.
- Strengthening our chorale program
- Launched alternative service - to be a home for people who haven't found a spiritual home
- Special deacon deliveries to members over 85 years old - Christmas and Easter
- Look to the Next Horizon - to look to where God will be
- Celebrated 75 years of God working in our midst.
- It's a special time to be able to turn a page together
- Our name came from many different sources, including the tent of meeting where we historically encounter God
- What does our new name look like?
- Graphic of new name - Malley Design
 - Our Bell Tower
 - A missional Hub
 - Continuous movement representing transformation
- Visual identity revealed - Logo and Core Values
- Narrative Budget Framework - what is God inviting us to next?
- This new season will take all of us.

- Opportunity to rethink how we do community: think creatively
- But also find some consistency
- Welcoming - It's all of our jobs. We all need to work together.
- Considering cultivating and renewing partnerships in our community - be a new blessing
- Refugee ministry - the world will continue to come to our doorstep
- How to serve our oldest members and those in their golden years
- We must step out in faith together

11:35 Foundation Report

Barry Naugle

- Over the first 43 years of our church we went from 0 to 6 million dollars. Now approaching 10 million.
- Continue to receive proceeds from sale of The Waters
- Foundation is designed to provide funding for key initiatives selected by Church Council.
- Recently, to make up for some of the lost giving due to the pandemic - to help meet operative budget
- We do not expect this to be long-lasting
- Right now - in an investment slump. Will have trouble relying on investment return this year, and will not be receiving more money from The Waters.

11:38 Treasurer's Report

Jason Phillips

- Finance committee meets monthly
- Ted Stark stepped in as chair of the finance committee
- Kris Henderson stepped into the gaps we had including revamping the budget process
- Review the 2022-2023 budget together
- The budget is always an expectation of what we think will happen in the year to come
- The spending section is our expression of investment in our staff
- Forecast is that we will be short of our actual budget, but slightly better than noted on the slides
- This year was flat with prior years in terms of giving (after years of decline)
- An example - 21 average giving units would make up for the budget increase for next year
- Forecasting modest increases in other sources of revenue
- Our building is underutilized and we have an opportunity to do good, and this will increase income
- We came in under budget from a spending perspective overall.
- Next year - expenses are going up. Some line items are being re-classified/moved - example is A/V.
- The biggest change is HR - inflation is contributing, increases in benefits costs, compensation adjustments, "upgrading" the director of church administration - we have hired Janetta.
- Inflation of facilities costs - especially utilities.
- Governmental assistance - COVID employee retention credit.
- The budget we are proposing this year has an even greater deficit than last year.
- The Foundation has the capacity to support this year's deficit, but leadership doesn't want to continue relying on this source of income
- A deficit of this size makes us all uncomfortable, but we are investing in the future instead of cutting staff and programming now

Budget Questions:

- Is Upper Room still using our facility?
 - Yes. And Berry Patch.

- Plans in following year's budget to expand use of building - any ideas?
 - One key use would be ministry partners to use space in creative ways (like Hoyo and Fair Anita in past). Jeff- vision of missional hub out of this building. New partners. How we can make the Commons more inviting. Task Force - building and grounds usage plan. Reconceptualize the space itself. Pilgrim Path. Farmers Market. Bicycle Safety.
- Calendar Year Giving - lost about 30% of giving units since 2019. That's a significant issue that we have to change. Need for all of us to give of our time, talents, and resources. We have made investments and we need to allow those investments time to work. We have contributors who are aging. We have to be filled with the spirit. We have to continue to bring in new people.
- Part of this deficit we can solve.
- People giving 10k or more has declined from 45 to 28. The money is a result of people.
- The generosity committee has been meeting regularly and is looking ahead - we see opportunity. Need to understand and expand what generosity means. We are committed into the future. It is a work in progress.

Motion to Approve the Budget

Discussion if there are any more questions in-house, Zoom.

Show of hands in person and on Zoom - **motion carries**

12:21 Celebration of Lay Leaders

Susan Lussky

- Council and Leadership of committees. Individual Deacons and Council Members.
- Members can join a committee anytime.
- Motion to accept the slate as presented
- Show of hands in person and on Zoom - **motion carries**

12:25 Open Discussion

- We have a wave of refugees coming. It would be helpful if we did some equipping - Muslims, Ukrainians
- Thank you to the committees and leadership and to the staff. It's eye-opening to see the work that it takes. Important to give of our time, to respond to the invitation.

12:29 Introduction and Blessing of incoming Moderator, Steve Anderson

Jeff Lindsay

Laying on of hands and prayer

Thanking Cheryl for her service as Moderator - leadership in an unprecedented time

12:35 Closing - 75 years, Prayer

Jeff Lindsay

To mark the transition of our past building to our current one, the congregation marched from the old building to the new one. To mark today, we are invited to do that again. Build on the past and look to the future. We walked as a congregation to the bell tower for the revealing and blessing of the new name.

12:44 Adjournment

Minutes by Paige Latham Didora