

Centre Congregational Church Annual Meeting

September 20, 2015

Moderator, Bruce Weaver determined that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 11:10 A.M.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of September 2014 were approved by unanimous consent.

Reports of Officers and Ministry Team Leaders: A motion was made and seconded to accept the reports of Officers, Ministry Teams, and Outreach Ministries for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015 as recorded in the 2015 Annual Report and presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on September 20, 2015. The motion passed unanimously.

2015 -2016 Annual Budget: A motion was made and seconded to approve the FY 2016 budget as approved by Parish Council, recorded in the 2015 Annual Report, and presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on September 20, 2015. Before explaining the FY 2016 budget, Treasurer Jeff Law summarized the financial data from FY 2015. He noted that we ended the year with a deficit of \$53,660.97. FY 2015 expenses were on budget, but income was lower than anticipated. Pledges, Prepaid Pledges, Prior Year Pledges, Loose Offerings, Building Use Donations, and Wedding Donations were all below budget. The income expected from Verizon Wireless was not received because Verizon Wireless did not install their equipment. The unbudgeted Supplemental Pledge drive raised \$36,775 and prevented the deficit from being even larger. Jeff then reviewed the details of the FY 2016 budget. Income is projected to be nearly flat – increasing by only \$440.97. Tower Day School enrollment is higher than last year so the projected Tower Day contribution has been increased by \$40,000. T-Mobile income will increase by 2% per our contract with them; no income is anticipated from Verizon. Building use contributions are expected to rise by approximately \$3720. The expense side of the budget includes a 2% increase in staff salaries and related personnel costs and a 5% increase in insurance costs. The salary for the Christian Education Director (now called The Director of Faith Formation) reflects Barbara Langill's retirement and the budgeted range for a part-time replacement for the remainder of the year. Pastor expenses are budgeted at \$5500 consistent with the Pastor's Terms of Call. Rev. Bailey's expenses typically run much lower. Faith Development and Music expenses have been budgeted slightly higher than last year's actual expenses to be consistent with prior years' budgets. The change in the Supply Minister line reflects the fact that Jamie Howard was with us at the start of the last fiscal year, but is not with us this fiscal year. The combination of slightly higher expected income and lower expected expenses will decrease our operating loss by \$19,502.18 – from a loss of \$53,660.97 last year to an expected loss of \$34,158.79 in FY 2016. Jeff emphasized that we cannot sustain these losses given our modest endowment so will need to hold a Supplemental Pledge Drive. The Moderator reviewed the motion on the floor and called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Election of Officers, Ministry Team Chairs, and Other Positions: A motion was made and seconded to accept the names and terms as recorded in the Nominating Committee Report, presented to the congregation at the 2015 Annual Meeting on September 20, 2015. The motion

passed unanimously. The Moderator noted that there are vacancies and that fresh faces and new ideas are always welcome.

Remembrance of Deceased Members: The Moderator called for a moment of silence to remember and celebrate the lives of members and friends of Centre Church who were called home to eternal rest between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015.

Recognition of 50-year Members: The Moderator congratulated David Bjorkman, Dana Richardson, and Virginia Richardson for joining the 50-year club.

New Business: The Moderator noted that the transition between Sally MacDonald and Leah O'Brien as Tower Day Director has been very smooth. He also remarked that we continue to try to be in touch with Verizon Wireless in the hope that they will decide to install an antenna in our steeple. For now, they say they have other priorities. The Moderator reiterated the Treasurer's remarks that we will need a Supplemental Pledge Drive.

Discussion of Capital Items: The Moderator and Chuck Cotting spoke about several capital budget items that have been accomplished over the past couple of years. These items include replacing heating systems and the church roof. Chuck thanked Scott Desantis for completing several painting projects and re-glazing and painting the large window in the Narthex. Both Bruce and Chuck noted that the exterior of the building is sorely in need of painting. Chuck has received a favorable bid from a painting contractor who is willing to paint the church in two or three phases to make it more affordable. We have enough money set aside in Capital Maintenance to complete phase one which would begin at the Summer St. entrance and continue along the front of the building to include at least the front of the chapel. Depending on how much repair work is needed, phase one could include the Library side of the chapel. Fundraising would be needed to complete the project.

Other Business: Frank Scott asked about the drop in membership from 331 to 322 and wondered if Confirmands were included in the membership numbers. The Moderator responded that Confirmands are included in the membership numbers, but there was no Confirmation Class last year. David Bjorkman asked those in attendance to encourage friends and neighbors to come to our church.

There being no further business, Rev. Bailey led a closing prayer.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Cotting, Recording Secretary