

## **Annual Meeting Minutes**

**January 29, 2017**

### **I. Prelude, Welcome & Announcements**

### **II. Gathering / Call to Order**

- The congregation sang "I Woke Up this Morning".
- The 2017 meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Martha Olsen at 10:10 am. A quorum was declared. Robert's Rules of Order will be used during the meeting.
- Covenant Partners of the Church are eligible to vote today. Everyone should raise your hand and say your name. Questions and/or Discussions should wait until a microphone is brought around.
- The meeting was opened with a responsive prayer.

### **III. Approval of 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes**

- Ann Ross made a motion to accept the minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting as presented. Patrick Fernan seconded the motion. Motion called by the Moderator. Motion passed unanimously.

### **IV. A Celebration of 2016 Ministries**

- Pastor Kerri presented an overview of the 2016 ministries. The activities included:
  - Sabbatical
    - Reminder that numbers are one thing, but spirit is another.
    - Tom Ludwig, Joan Jacobsen, Carolyn Bell, and Pastor Kris led church throughout the summer while Pastor Kerri was on Sabbatical.
  - Lay-Led Ministry Teams
    - New Women's Vocal Group
  - Faith Development
    - Congregational Care – led by Walk of Faith group
  - Outreach
    - Many outreach activities took place throughout the year. We touch hundreds of lives by our outreach.
      - Bucky & Lena fundraiser, concerts, violin practices, Easter Egg Hunt, Messy Church, McFarland Food Pantry Giving Tree, and many personal donations were given by this congregation.

- Twelve different wedding and celebrations happened throughout 2016.
- 500 pounds of food were distributed to families in need of food.
- Ministry Reach
  - 19 people participated in cross-generational confirmation.
- This congregation's ministry is so much more diverse and widely reaching that you just sitting in the church building every Sunday morning. The ministry that we reach is in the thousands.
- We can do all things through Christ who strengthen us.
- The choir shared their ministry by singing "Gloria in Excelsis".
- The choir was **AWESOME!!!** 🎵 🎵 🎵 (in my opinion 😊)

## V. Meditations on Scripture

- The congregation heard a reading from Luke 6:1-12 (CEB).
- The congregation participated in a responsive song.
- Pastor Kerri shared reflections and meditations on scripture.

## VI. Vision of Ministry 2017

### Engaged Disciples

- Rachael Saladis presented a focus of the Servant Leadership Team (SaLT).
- SaLT is made up of 8 covenant partners to look at vision, long range planning, etc.
- SaLT has a retreat every fall to focus on the future.
- Keep goals simple
  - Growing congregation of Engaged Disciples – 2017 is the year that you will be actively engaged in the congregation.
  - SaLT challenge to
    - Make a commitment to outward ministry as a minister; not a volunteer. This would be a 4 hour commitment.
      - Sundaes on Thursdays
      - Messy Church
    - Make a commitment to your own spiritual growth.
      - Attend Messy Church (second Sunday of the month; September – April)
      - Attend Family Wednesdays in Lent (beginning March 1, 6 pm, and continuing through Holy Week).
- Discussions: There were no questions on the information that Rachel shared.
- The congregation reflected by singing "Spirt of Gentleness".

## **Budget**

- Dawn Algrim presented the proposed 2017 budget, explanations of changes, and differences from 2016. Dawn highlighted the significant differences between 2016 and 2017. The differences include:
  - Increased snow removal – we have more sidewalk and have to pay the contractor for removal.
  - Phone and Internet – introductory contract went up to standard rates
  - Pay increases for pastor (1%), admin assistant (1%), and accompanist (1%)
  - Pastor Health Insurance increases due to rate class and rate changes
  - Ministers of Music – Proposed total budget is \$151.50/service, plus additional funds for guest musicians as needed for extra instruments, ensembles or worship series like God on Broadway. Last year we had thought we'd hire a paid minister of music to assist with vocal direction, but that didn't materialize. SaLT recommends that we continue to move forward with limited paid music staffing (our choir, men's and women's vocal ensembles and brass are all led by volunteers).
  - Discretionary/Ministry opportunity – budget \$9,000
    - Passionate Worship
    - Radical Hospitality
    - Intentional Faith Development
    - Risk-taking Mission & Service
    - Extravagant Generosity
- The total proposed budget of \$174,889 was presented. There were no questions on the proposed budget. The congregation unanimously approved the budget. The proposed budget was approved.
- The congregation sang "Amen" in response.

## **Nominations**

- Bruce Fischer provided an update on the 2017 nominations:
  - Moderator – Rachel Saladis (continuing)
  - Vice Moderator – Carolyn Bell (newly elected)
  - Treasurer – Dawn Algrim (continuing)
  - Clerk – Anne Gerke (continuing)
  - Financial Secretary – Denny Schaaf (continuing)
  - SaLT – Jason Chapman (continuing 2<sup>nd</sup> term)
  - SaLT – Lisa Fernan (continuing 2<sup>nd</sup> term)
  - SaLT – Bruce Fischer (continuing)
  - SaLT – Joan Jacobsen (continuing)

- Martha Olsen is completing her term as the Moderator.
- Ann Ross made a motion to accept the new lay leadership as presented for 2017 and thanked those ending their term. Barb Baumgartner seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote of congregation.
- Martha Olsen and the Sabbatical Team (Tom Ludwig, Joan Jacobsen, and Carolyn Bell) were thanked by Pastor Kerri with tokens of her appreciation. They were also released from their duties and pass over to their successors. The congregation released the team of their services.
- Continuing and Incoming 2017 SaLT members were charged and commissioned by the congregation and sang a responsive song.
- The congregation sang "Amen" in response.

#### **VII. A Time for the Child in Us All**

- Pastor Kerri and the children discussed how the annual meeting is about all of the people in the church. The congregation prayed the Lord's Prayer.

#### **VIII. Dedicating our Financial Resources**

- Long Term Debt
  - Martha Olsen and Farrel Smith provided an update on the Long Term Debt.
  - In November 2016, McFarland UCC received a letter from the Wisconsin Conference UCC about the existence of unpaid debt dating back almost 30 years. The funds, secured with the assistance of the Conference, enabled MUCC to purchase land and build our church in McFarland. Two loans exist:
    - \$51,495 (owed to the Wisconsin Conference UCC)
    - \$19,503 (owed to the national UCC, payable through the Wisconsin Conference UCC). The deed to the church land is owned by the Wisconsin Conference UCC, a fact of which we were previously not aware.
    - The mortgage of the extra lot was paid in 2005, and the loan to the Conference was paid in 2006.
    - The \$51,495 is a "grant mortgage" where we were not charged interest.
    - The congregation was provided a document outlining the background of the long term debt.
  - SaLT Recommendation & Rationale
    - Joan Jacobsen presented the SaLT Recommendation & Rationale.

- The recommendations made by the SaLT included considerations of the pending capital campaign and renovation projects, the current giving capacity of the congregation, their desire to honor the obligations entered into by prior generations of the church, and their desire to continue the forward momentum they have worked so hard to build.
  - SaLT weight many options ranging from an aggressive repayment schedule and whether the capital campaign proceeds or the operating budget would be the best option.
  - The Conference expressed no sense of urgency to repay the debt.
  - SaLT felt it would be responsible to make an initial payment toward the debt that is approximately 10% of the principal, with at least a token payment (at least \$1,000) each year following to keep the debt in front of us.
  - Major donors to the 'Building God's Future' capital campaign were contacted immediately. Enough donors agreed to have a portion of their funds used for debt repayment, so that we would be able to make the proposed initial payment toward the debt with capital campaign funds currently available.
  - After background research, prayer and a time for discernment, the Servant Leadership Team of McFarland UCC recommends a hybrid approach to repaying the long term debt:
    - \$7000 initial payment (10% of the debt) in 2017 from capital campaign proceeds with donor approval.
    - \$1000 minimum annual progress toward repayment from annual operating budget in years 2018 and future.
    - Additional payment from annual operating budget where possible, subject to available funds.
  - Bruce Fischer made a motion to proceed with the \$7,000 initial payment in 2017 and \$1,000 minimum annual progress toward repayment from the annual operating budget in 2018 and future. Additional payment from annual operating budget where possible, subject to available funds. Pastor Kerri seconded the motion.
- Discussion
  - A point of clarification was made that 2017 budget does not include part of the re-payment, but the money will come from capital campaign donors. There will be a line item in 2018 and future.

- We could expect the leadership to come up with alternative ways to pay more than \$1,000 in the future as it would take 60 years to pay \$1,000 each year. The budget amount will not be below \$1000 each year.
  - Four members of the church who were here when the church was built. They are in the congregation today.
  - A question was raised about what is the national church. What is that? The National Church is part of the UCC and they lent us most of the money and the grant mortgage (interest free loan). They are the headquarters of the UCC located in Cleveland, OH.
  - The \$19,503 loan will be paid first.
  - The deed of the property is owned by the Conference. When the mortgage is paid, will the McFarland UCC own the property at that time? Martha Olsen stated that she feels that is true.
  - Can we raise the \$1,000 in each year's budget? The operating budget will be approved every year. SaLT will make a recommendation and the congregation can increase the amount each year.
  - Is it possible to take one Sunday on Thursday to raise money for this debt? Julie Woodward answered this question as "NO". Sundaes on Thursdays is a mission and the money MUST go outside of the church. Also, the Village would not allow the money to go to the church.
  - The congregation unanimously approved the motion. Motion passed.
- Capital Campaign Update
  - Gregg Krattiger provided an update on the Capital Campaign.
  - Over the past year, the Capital Campaign Team focused on creating plans for remodeling and enhancing McFarland UCC building and seeking pledges for church members and friends of MUCC.
  - Several meetings with various groups helped to prioritize the improvements that are most needed.
  - The Team met with potential donors individually and in small groups to explain the building project and the dreams they have for the church building.
  - Every donor who pledged to the campaign received a hand-written thank-you note as a token of our gratitude.
  - The Team also worked with the office staff to maintain records of those with whom they met and the amounts that were pledged.

- The campaign purposes were: to make capital improvements to the building with the following core values: welcoming ●visionary ● faith-filled ●community-building ●functional; and included support of the Wisconsin UCC camps' *CAMPital Campaign*.

MUCC Capital Campaign Pledges as of 1/4/17	\$181,600
<i>CAMPital Campaign</i> Intention of Giving <sup>1</sup>	• \$18,160
Recommended payment toward long term debt <sup>2</sup>	• \$ 7,000
<b>To be available for capital projects</b>	<b>\$156,440</b>

<sup>1</sup>Capital Campaign: The Team committed to \$18,160 for the *CAMPital Campaign*. SaLT agreed to make an initial payment of \$2,600 toward the *CAMPital Campaign* pledge in 2016 on behalf of McFarland UCC, based on 10% of the \$26,000 we had already received in payments toward the campaign.

<sup>2</sup>Long Term Debt: SaLT recommends a payment of \$7,000 toward long-term debt and major donors to the capital campaign have agreed to the use of their funds for this purpose.

Discussion:

- There were no discussions or questions regarding the capital campaign.
- Martha Olsen provided the call to offering and also invited people to return Intentions of Giving.
- The congregation sang “Mungu Ni Mwema” and dedicated the gifts with prayer.
- Martha Olsen handed the “baton” over to Rachel Saladis.

IX. Tom Ludwig made a motion to adjourn the meeting following the closing song and blessing. Anne Gerke seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 11:46 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Gerke, Clerk