

Annual Meeting Minutes

January 31, 2016

I. Prelude, Welcome & Announcements

II. Gathering/Call to Order

- The church sang “Arise, Shine, for your light has come” and Remembered God’s Story together.
- The meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Jim Hartman, at 10:09 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.
- The meeting was opened with a responsive prayer.

III. Approval of 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes

- Ann Ross made a motion to accept the minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting as presented. Nicole Chapman seconded the motion. Motion called by the Moderator. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. A Celebration of 2015 Ministries

V. Meditations on Scripture

The congregation heard a reading from Mark 6:1-13 and Pastor Kerri offered reflections on 2015 activities within the life of the church. Highlights included Sundaes on Thursdays and other outreach, including the “daffodil project,” which began as a memorial, provided support to McFarland School District staff during a difficult school year, and received national publicity through UCC News. McFarland UCC’s ministries directly reached approximately 5,000 people in 2015.

VI. Vision of Ministry 2016

Goals

Julie Woodward provided an update on MUCC Goals for 2016.

- 150 people active in faith development
- Grow toward 100 average in worship
 - We are currently averaging about 75 in worship
- Engage the community at 7+ community events
- 125 people active in mission & outreach
- Fully implemented ministry team model
- 30 e-givers

No discussion. Unanimous decision to accept these goals for 2016.

Budget

Dawn Algrim presented the proposed 2016 budget, explanations of changes, and differences from 2015.

- The total proposed budget of \$179,899 was presented.
- Significant changes include purchase of a laptop, office supplies, 2% increase in pastor salary and higher medical benefit costs, full year staffing for nursery and additional ministers of music. The discretionary/ministry opportunities fund of \$9,000 includes resources that fulfill multiple ministry areas – worship, faith development, hospitality, outreach and more.
- Our giving has increased by \$60,000 in 5 years. This is substantial!

Discussion:

- Thank you to the SaLT and others that put together the budget for 2016.
- Thank you for thinking about the additional money for the music ministry!

Unanimous decision to accept the 2016 budget.

Nominations

Jason Chapman provided an update on the 2016 nominations

- Martha Olsen – Moderator (continuing)
- Rachel Saladis – Vice Moderator (newly elected)
- Treasurer – Dawn Algrim (continuing)
- Clerk – Anne Gerke (new term)
- Financial Secretary – Denny Schaaf (2nd term)
- Jason Chapman (continuing)
- Lisa Fernan (continuing)
- Bruce Fischer (newly elected)
- Joan Jacobsen (newly elected)

Jim Hartman, Julie Woodward, and Lisa Ludwig are completing their terms.

Lavon Geasland made a motion to accept the new lay leadership as presented for 2016. Dick Gouker seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote of congregation.

Outgoing SaLT members were thanked and released from their duties by the congregation. Continuing and Incoming SaLT members were charged and commissioned by the congregation.

Sabbatical

Carolyn Bell provided an update on the pastor's sabbatical scheduled for summer 2016.

- What is a sabbatical? "Ceasing," a rest or break from work, for purposes of spiritual renewal.
- How do we pay for a sabbatical? We received a grant from the Lilly Endowment National Clergy Renewal Program, one of 144 congregations to receive funding. Use of funds is restricted (close to \$32,000) – separate from the budget that was just approved.
- What does a sabbatical look like?
 - June: Month of rest (found in sacred spaces)
 - July: Recharging (relationships)
 - August: Reflecting (what does the future hold)
- What does this mean for the church?
 - Pastor Kerri's Sabbatical timeline
 - Transition Sunday, May 22
 - Reconnecting (returning part-time) September 4
 - Return Celebration (back full-time), September 18
 - Leadership Preparation
 - Half Day retreat with SaLT (planning session)
 - Pastoral Coverage (Kristin Gorton, half time for worship & pastoral care)
 - Congregational Activities (parallel activities)
 - Vision Retreat, during September

No discussion. No vote required.

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 being the church. The congregation sang, "I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together" and prayed the Lord's Prayer.

VIII. Dedicating Our Financial Resources

- Wendy Abel provided the call to offering and also invited people to return Intentions of Giving
- We sang and dedicated the gifts with prayer.

IX. Capital Campaign Proposal

Motion Proposed by SaLT: *To approve a self-administered capital campaign to fund building improvements for McFarland UCC and to support the Wisconsin Conference UCC CAMPital Campaign. The fundraising team will be appointed by SaLT. Final approval of a building plan, project budget, and CAMPital campaign contribution will be by a congregational vote.*

Rachel Saladis explained the proposal to begin a Capital Campaign. Some of the things that need to be improved include: repairs to stained glass windows, carpeting, lighting in the parking lot, and many more to make our church a warm and welcoming church to everyone.

This vote is not a vote on Plan A, B, etc. The vote is about do we have permission to begin fundraising. Plans have been shared as possibilities. The actual capital campaign will be independent and will be done in house. Gregg Krattiger, Geoff Brink, and Tom Ludwig will be formulating the fundraising plan. If the capital campaign is approved, the fundraising will begin.

Timeline & Background:

- February 2015: Congregation approved spending funds to explore feasibility of renovation project
- February – September 2015: Large and small work groups develop vision, list of priorities, conceptual plans
- Jan 2016: Vote on whether to conduct a capital campaign
- April 2016: Status update on campaign
- Date TBD (after fundraising, before building): Revise conceptual plans.
- Congregation vote – project scope & budget.

Questions regarding Capital Campaign

- Farrel Smith: The timeline is important to discuss. If we should raise substantial funds, we are probably talking about mortgages and could take years. You have to raise up-front cash before you can get a loan. If our fundraising comes up with something less than that, it could happen in the not too distant future. The capital funds will be approximately a 3-5 year commitment.
- Sara Zoran: The growth is mostly due to the talents of Pastor Kerri. Pastor Kerri is young and has a long future in front of her. This may include not staying with McFarland UCC. Can we maintain a commitment if Pastor Kerri leaves at some point in the future?

- Wendy Abel: Wendy is very confident that the leadership of the church believes in the “new” church. We are not just a building...we are people doing ministry. The tools that we need to develop disciples cost money. With the various retreats coming up, it will help us to see where we need to be.
- John Reed: the building improvements will come in stages. Will there be time before we begin building to discuss the details? Yes.
- Larry Treece: Please remember that the call to a pastor, it’s spiritual driven. Leadership and people stay even when it eventually happens that Pastor Kerri moves to another point in her congregation.
- Glenn Smeaton: Is the growth a recovery from the damage that has been done in the past? Pastor Kerri answered, describing several membership peaks in the congregation’s first 30 years.
- Anne Gerke: Asked a clarifying question, are we discussing the building plans or plans for Pastor Kerri leaving? We are discussing if we can move ahead with the fundraising activities.
- Julie Woodward: This is simply asking for permission to see how much money we are willing to commit the building improvements.
- Roger Brooks: Are we being asked to pledge on a 1 year basis, 3 year basis or 5 year basis. Gregg Krattiger answered: All three of the above. We originally thought it would be a 5 year plan. However, donations may be on a 1 year, 3 year, or 5 year basis.

The congregation was asked to complete a paper ballot. Julie Woodward and Denny Schaaf tallied the votes. Jim Hartman presented the vote results. There were 55 yes votes / 8 no votes Motion passed.

Pastor Kerri and the congregation commissioned Gregg Krattiger and Geoff Brink (and Tom Ludwig, in absentia) to serve as capital campaign leaders.

X. **Adjournment**

Lavon Geasland made a motion to adjourn the meeting following the closing song and blessing. Anne Gerke seconded the motion. The congregation sang and Pastor Kerri offered a blessing. Meeting adjourned at 11:34 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Gerke, Clerk