

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
ANNUAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 13, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 11:15AM by Moderator Audra Bailey.

Before opening the meeting, Audra displayed slides outlining rules for discussion as well as technology tips for those attending the meeting on YouTube or Facebook. Mary Newcomb monitored YouTube and Shirley Morton monitored Facebook. In addition, Audra told those in attendance that votes taken today would be a show of hands with Mary and Shirley providing on-line results.

Pr. Becky gave the opening prayer and the congregation read the Affirmation of Covenant.

Congregational Meeting

Minutes:

Phil Koenig moved to approve the minutes from last year's annual meeting. Desiree Grace seconded. Motion carried.

Phil Koenig moved to approve the minutes from the emergency meeting on January 30, 2022. Dieter Harlë seconded. Motion carried.

Ministry Board & Council

Nominations:

After detailing the names of new members of boards and council along with the names of board and council whose terms are not complete, Audra also displayed the names of board and council members who were leaving.

Nancy Henning moved to approve the slate of board and council members for 2022. Katie Harlë seconded. Motion carried.

Red Wagon Addition to Council:

Council approved Red Wagon as a mission of the church with a separate board and not as a separate entity in August of 2021. Jeff Newcomb made the following motion that was shown to the congregation: Recognize that Red Wagon is a mission of the church and therefore is represented at Council (beginning in 2022) by a church member seated on the Red Wagon Board. No second was necessary. In the discussion phase of the motion Joshua Dyer asked whether or not mission statements are clearly defined. Pr. Becky answered that Red Wagon's mission is clearly defined and in alignment with ours. Layne Porembski asked about legal liabilities and taxes. Phil Koenig responded that we had examined our liability insurance and looked at the taxes and both are in compliance. The motion passed with 2 voting members abstaining.

Endowment Information:

Steve Schippers reviewed resolutions from the 2021 meeting, explained the moving of the endowment from First Midwest Bank to Vanguard, how to gift stocks or cash to the church. Also included in his explanation was a recommendation to amend the church constitution to establish an Endowment Committee, members and

terms. He also answered questions clarifying how an individual can gift stocks as well as fees mentioned in and Annual Report.

The following motions were presented to the congregation:

- Release the 2021 Endowment Committee
- Appointment of Phil Koenig, Jeff Nelson, and Steve Schippers to 2022 Endowment Committee to continue their work writing the endowment transaction processes and to write recommended constitution and/or bylaw changes to establish Endowment Committee as a standing board and to present these recommendations for congregational vote in 2023.
- To reconcile 1 funds, test the draft processes, and then submit for inclusion in constitution and bylaws.

Motions carried.

Building Projects:

Jeff Newcomb began by outlining the 2018 Five-Year Plan projects that are completed and pointed out some that were not in the original plan but had to be addressed. He continued by showing the congregation the 2022 Five Year Plan. Some items in this plan are a continuation of projects. In response to a question and concern about water damage and flooding in the building, Jeff indicated that those issues have been addressed. He went on to say there are functioning valves that will prevent sewer and storm drain backups.

The dollar amount for the 2018 Five Year Plan was \$887,500 and the 2022 Five Year Plan is \$600,000. Bill Henning moved that we approve taking \$600,000 from the endowment over 5 years to deal with the items on the list. No second was needed. Motion carried.

Audra displayed the updated Income and Expenses graph that illustrated how our expenses have increased and income decreased. Additionally, she showed the updated Expenses v Pledges graph. Expenses are up and pledges are down.

Proposed Budget for 2022

As a point of information Pr. Becky told the congregation that the budget was prepared based on last year's pledges. We don't have the same income this year.

Audra Bailey moved to approve a deficit budget of \$96,856 for 2022. Phil Koenig seconded. The discussion that followed the motion centered on suggestions on how to work through the budget issue and not continue to pass deficit budgets. The vote on the motion was called with 3 members voting no, 3 members abstaining, the remainder voting in favor. Motion carried.

Next Steps:

Pr. Becky informed the congregation of what our possible next steps will be. On Sunday, March 6, 2022 there will be a leadership retreat for all members of Council, Boards, and most committees. The discussions at the retreat will determine the plan for 2022.

Nancy Henning thanked Audra for doing an outstanding job as moderator then continued by expressing concern that we are losing members because we don't have a seated senior pastor. Nancy moved that we form a search committee now. Patti Ensy seconded. During the discussion there were several members who voiced their reasons why they feel we need to form a committee now and several who expressed the reasons why we are not ready yet. 25 members voted in favor of forming a search committee, 26 members voted against forming a search committee and no members abstained. Motion failed.

Pr. Becky responded to the vote by expressing her concern about the division in the church and how such division makes it difficult for her to do her job. Members came forward to say that they voted in favor of the committee in order to have something in place so that we can move forward at the appropriate time.

Jeff Newcomb moved that we have another congregational meeting in April in order to review what will have transpired and to figure out ways to be solvent. Phil Koenig seconded. Motion carried.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:58PM following a closing prayer from Pr. Becky.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Carlson
Clerk