

Minutes of the Hopedale Unitarian Parish Annual Meeting June 5, 2016

OPENING THE MEETING

A **roll call** of active members was held. 33 active members were present of 76. This meets the 20% quorum (16) required to hold the Annual Meeting.

Handouts were passed out: Proposed Budget; Proposed Bylaws Changes; Slate of Nominees; Reports from the Minister and most of the Committees.

Kern Buck, chairperson of the Parish Board **called the meeting to order** and welcomed the congregation.

A motion was made to dispense with the reading of the official **Warrant** and seconded.

Vote: in favor: 32; opposed: 0; abstained: 1

A motion was made by Fred Oldfield to have Maryhelen Hibben moderate the meeting.

Seconded by: Kern Buck

Vote: in favor 33; opposed: 0; abstained: 0

Rev. Tony Lorenzen reminded us of the **Covenant** of how we work together in our meetings, including: respecting each person's opinion, giving everyone the chance to speak, speaking from our own personal viewpoint and assuming the best intentions.

PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGES

The number of active members present (33) did not meet the quorum (39) required to vote on the Bylaws changes. The proposals were presented anyway so that the Congregation would know about them and have the chance to raise questions. Voting on the proposed changes is postponed to a future date, to be determined.

The current Parish Board supports all of these proposals.

The members in attendance received a handout dated May 30, 2016 with these proposed changes.

The same document was emailed or mailed to all active members on June 1.

PROPOSAL: Changes related to the positions of Treasurer, Co-Treasurer and Collector.

Article V Officers, Section 1.1(b) – changes

Article V Officers, Section 4 – added a section

Article VI Committees, Section 1.1 - changes

Kathleen Schleper explained the changes and the reasoning behind them.

No further discussion.

PROPOSAL: Include a non-discrimination statement.

Article II Purpose, 5 – added a section

Chris Grilly explained the change and the reasoning behind it.

No further discussion.

PROPOSAL: Establish a Committee on Shared Ministries and modify the Bylaws as needed.

Modify some Bylaws language about the Parish Board to reflect the proposed sharing of responsibilities.

Article V Officers, Section 1.1(d) - changes

Article V Officers, Section 1.2(c) – add (c)

Article V Officers, Section 3.2(c) - changes

Article V Officers, Section 3.2(i) – added a paragraph

Article V Officers, Section 5 – added a section

Article VI Committees, Section 1.1(b) – remove this paragraph

Article VI Committees, Section 2 – revision of the entire paragraph

Three people are working to establish the functional details of this proposed committee: Randy Carbo, Janet Grant and Alice Jacobson.

Janet Grant and Randy Carbo explained the need for a new committee to handle the ministry aspect of our Church so that the Parish Board can focus on the governance of the Church. They explained the changes required in the Bylaws to accomplish this.

- A PowerPoint presentation was given by Randy. Copies will be made available.
- Janet explained that establishing this new committee was part of the contract calling Rev. Tony Lorenzen to ministry at Hopedale Parish.

An active and extended discussion and questioning period followed with many congregants expressing their viewpoints, requests and suggestions.

Requests from the Congregation

- Hold a meeting to more fully explain to the members the Committee on Shared Ministries concept starting this summer
- Make the PowerPoint presentation available on the website and in handouts

Major points from the Members which need additional consideration by the Board

- It appears that the Minister appoints the people who subsequently evaluate his work and this is a conflict
- Revise the graphic which shows the Congregation at the bottom of the screen. This makes it appear that the Congregation has no control
- How can 3 people on the new committee handle all that work as illustrated in one of the PowerPoint graphics when there are 7 on the Board to handle less work? It seems unbalanced
- There is too much power is in the minister's hands
- It was a surprise to find out at this meeting that this new committee is part of the contract with the minister

Meetings are planned in the fall for congregational discussions to help focus the work of the future Committee on Share Ministries.

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

The **Parish Board Report** was presented by Kern Buck and passed out to the members

The **Committee Reports** which were received in time for printing were passed out to the members at the start of the meeting.

Committee Reports Received

Building & Facilities	Laundry Love	Social Action
Caring Connection	Lifespan Religious Education	Visiting
Finance & Investing	Scholarship	Welcoming Congregation
Garden & Grounds	Nominating	Worship
Kitchen	Outreach & Engagement	

Not Received

Gathering Place	Parish Alliance
Historical	Partnership
Music	

A motion was made by Tony Alves to dispense with the reading of the Committee reports.

It was seconded and there was no discussion.

Vote: in favor: all present; opposed: 0; abstained: 0

The **Minister's Report** was passed out to the Members at the start of the meeting and there was no further discussion.

The Moderator encouraged the Members to take some time later to read all the reports.

ELECTIONS

Fred Oldfield, as a member of the Nominating Committee, presented their nominations for Parish Board, Finance Committee and Nominating Committee.

Motion: To elect for a 3-year term to the Parish Board: Michele Alves, Karen Gehm and Maryhelen Hibben, as recommended by the Nominating Committee.

Motion by: Marcia Matthews

Seconded by: Rob Burke

Discussion: none

Vote: in favor: all present; opposed: 0; abstained: 0

Continuing on the Parish Board are: Kern Buck, Mark DeWolf, Tina Mustachio and Judy Oldfield.

Motion: To elect to a 1-year term to the Finance & Investment Committee: Tony Alves, Tracy Anderson, Tina Mustachio, Fred Oldfield and Kathleen Schleper, as recommended by the Nominating Committee.

Motion by: Pat Giles

Seconded by: Judy Oldfield

Discussion: none

Vote: in favor: all present; opposed: 0; abstained: 0

Tracy Anderson is new to the committee this year.

Motion: To elect to a 1-year term to the Nominating Committee: Tony Alves, Rita Earl, Alice Jacobson and Fred Oldfield.

Motion by: Richard Johnson

Seconded by: Janet Davis

Discussion: none

Vote: in favor: all present; opposed: 0; abstained: 0

Alice Jacobson is new to the committee this year.

Point of information:

Fred Oldfield is our Treasurer and Kathleen Schleper is our Collector.

They are within their 3-year terms and no election is required this year.

PROPOSED BUDGET

Budget recommendations are drawn up by the Finance & Investment Committee and presented to the Parish Board for approval.

The 2016-2017 Budget was presented by Kern Buck, on behalf of the Parish Board, with some detailed explanation by Tina Mustachio.

An extended amount of question and discussion followed.

Questions and Concerns

- Explain the Expense #66001 Partner Church Gifts
- Explain Expense items #60400 and #60500 and why they are combined rather than listed separately
- Concern was expressed about the cuts to many important aspects, such as professional expenses. Can funds raised be put aside to cover this and remove the cuts?

Suggestion from a Member

- Next year when presenting the budget also include the actual expenses

Motion: To add \$2000 to Expense item #72201, Fundraising Advertising, making it \$2000.

Motion by: Robert Anderson

Seconded: Kern Buck

Discussion points:

- \$0 is the proposed amount; advertising is needed to get fundraising started
- Is the fundraising going to be directed only at our congregation or to the wider community? Both places.

Vote: in favor: 24; opposed: 1; abstained: 0

The motion passed.

Motion: To add \$2000 to Income item #40005, Fundraising Efforts, making it \$15,500.

Motion by: Tony Alves

Seconded by: Fred Oldfield

Discussion points:

- An equal expense item is needed to balance the first amendment's income increase
- Is the fundraising task force going to be able to deliver on this increased expectation?

Vote: in favor: 22; opposed: 2; abstained: 1

The motion passed.

Motion: Decrease the DRE professional expenses (#73002) by \$450 and move the same amount to the substitute pianist/organist line (#73000).

Motion by: Deanna Mustachio

Seconded by: Tina Mustachio

Discussion points:

- Concern was expressed on how we could do a Sunday service without piano or organ music, therefore this shift of funds was proposed.
- Explain the DRE Professional Expenses
- Support was expressed for the amount of work a DRE performs

Vote: in favor: 2; opposed: 20; abstained: 3

The motion failed.

Motion: To accept the 2016-17 Budget as presented and amended.

Moved by: Becky Chan

Seconded by: Janet Grant

Discussion: none

Vote: in favor: 22; opposed: 3; abstained: 0

The motion passed.

CLOSE OF THE MEETING

Rev. Tony offered some closing thoughts.

Motion: To adjourn the Annual Meeting

Motion by: Fred Oldfield

Seconded by: Peg Theriault

Discussion: none

Vote: in favor: 25; opposed: 0; abstained: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Maryhelen A. Hibben

Annual Meeting Moderator/Clerk