

**CHURCH OF THE PALMS – PRESBYTERIAN (USA)
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION
AND CORPORATION**

**SARASOTA, FLORIDA
JANUARY 31, 2021**

MINUTES

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation of Church of the Palms – Presbyterian (USA) (“Congregation”), and Church of the Palms – Presbyterian (USA), Inc. (“Corporation”), together with the presentation of an Annual Report from the Foundation for the Church of the Palms – Presbyterian (USA), Inc. (“Foundation”), began at 9:37 AM on Sunday, January 31, 2021, in the Sanctuary and via video conference. Notice was given on at least two consecutive Sundays before the meeting and in churchwide publications.

CALL TO ORDER AND QUORUM: Senior Pastor The Rev. Dr. Stephen D. McConnell served as Moderator and called the meeting to order. Observing over 10% of the members in attendance either in person or via video conference, a quorum was declared by the Clerk to the Session and Secretary of the Corporation Linda Getzen. In attendance was President of the Corporation Andrea Jackson.

OPENING PRAYER: Dr. McConnell opened the meeting with prayer.

PROCEDURAL MOTIONS:

1. **Motion was made, seconded, and passed: To run the meetings of the Congregation and Corporation concurrently, and that the minutes taken will constitute actions of both bodies as though held separately.**
2. **Motion was made, seconded, and passed: To designate the Clerk to the Session and Secretary of the Corporation Linda Getzen to serve as Secretary for the combined annual meetings.**

MINUTES: Motion was made, seconded, and passed: To dispense with the reading of and approve as recorded the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation held on January 26, 2020.

MEMORIAL MOMENT: Congregational Life Pastor The Rev. Dr. Lal Hmingliani Browne called for a Memorial Moment to recognize and pray for those members of the Congregation who died during 2020, noting that their names are listed in the 2020 Annual Report.

REPORT FROM NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Nominating Committee Chair Marcia Baarson introduced the members of the committee and thanked them for their service. Elder Baarson then presented the slate of nominees for Elders, Deacon’s Executive Committee, Shepherding Deacons, Nominating Committee, and Memorial Garden Board. There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed. **Motion was made, seconded, and passed: To elect the following:**

Elders -- Class of 2024:

Diane Curtis, Maxine Perry, Steve Rowe, and Sandi Stewart

Executive Committee of the Board of Deacons -- Class of 2024 (except as indicated):

Julie Boeger, Ginna Clark, Judy Connell, Marty Guice, John Kennedy, Shelly Maddox, and Don Schalekamp (Class of 2022)

Shepherding Deacons – Class of 2024:

Judy Armitage	Sally Irwin	Ellen Schaller
Kathy Banister	Barbara Kemp	Emily Shute
Beverly Bassett	Donna Kesten	Frank Shute
Roberta Benninghoff	Tom Kollenberg	Eleanor Smith
Janet Brennan	Cindy Lanoue-Foster	Carol Spangle
Jack Brown	Cathie Lloyd	Cori Stevens
Susan Brown	Keith Maddox	Donald Stewart
John Cavanaugh	Jacob Maestas	Jacquelynn Torcicollo
Barbara Colwell	Frances Maestas	Edward Torcicollo
Jacqueline Cowles	Phyllis McLlraith	Dick Thompson
Don Curtis	Kyle Mitchell	Liz Thompson
Teresa Fridley	Doris Nocera	Barbara Twible
Susan Guice	Anne Owens	Jean Walker
Mary Hailey	Marsha Quattlebaum	Joyce Waterbury
Marilee Heider	Harry Rownd	William Watrous
Peggy Hoffman	Sally Rownd	Helen Watrous
Linda Holly	Robin Segó	Larry Weaver

Nominating Committee -- Class of 2023 (except as indicated):

Kyle Quattlebaum, Sandy Snyder, Sherry Watts, and Marlene Petro (Class of 2022)

Memorial Garden Board -- Class of 2024 (except as indicated):

Brad Hindall, Marilyn Eigsti, and Sue Lindemer (Class of 2023)

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

1. **REVIEW OF 2020 FINANCIAL REPORT AND 2021 BUDGET:** Administration & Finance Committee Chair Andrea Jackson thanked the members of the Administration & Finance Committee for their dedication to the financial well-being of the church. Elder Jackson then provided an overview of the Church Financial Report, printed in the 2020 Annual Report, which reflects the 2020 budget, 2020 actual, and the 2021 budget. In spite of the COVID-19 global pandemic, the church was able to maintain its full staff at both the church and the preschool and meet its mission obligations. Elder Jackson thanked the Congregation for their generosity during 2020, and the church staff for their careful management of expenses. She also highlighted the achievements in 2020, including ending the year with a significant surplus that will be allocated among capital reserve, global mission partners, music ministry, digital

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ministry, and new initiatives. Turning to the current year, the 2021 church contribution budget is about 6% higher than the 2020 budget, but less than what was actually received in 2020. Overall revenue and expenses are about 1% more than last year's budget, but less than the actual figures of 2020. Some areas show decreases, not because of programs being cut, but solely based on the reality of revised formats due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its protocols and restrictions. *[Note: The Motion to receive the 2021 budget occurred after completion of item 2 below.]*

2. **TERMS OF CALL:** Prior to discussion of the Terms of Call for the called pastors, Personnel Committee Chair Joan Emrich excused Dr. McConnell and Dr. Browne and Rev. Haas from the meeting. Elder Emrich thanked the members of the Personnel Committee for their service during the year. She then presented Terms of Call for the called pastors, which had been discussed with each pastor and were acceptable to all of them. The Personnel Committee proposed a 3% increase in the combined salary/housing allowances figures for Dr. McConnell and Dr. Browne, and an 8% increase for Rev. Haas. **Motion was made, seconded, and passed: To approve the Terms of Call for the called pastors as presented, and reflected in the 2021 budget, which the Clerk to the Session will communicate to the Clerk of Peace River Presbytery for each pastor as reflected in the appropriate accounts.** *See Terms of Call attached to the official minutes.* Upon return to the meeting, Dr. McConnell and Dr. Browne and Rev. Haas received applause from the Congregation thanking them for their ministries.

Motion was made, seconded, and passed: To receive the 2021 budget as presented, reflecting total anticipated income and expenses of \$4,160,500.

AMENDMENT TO BYLAWS: The Moderator then explained the rationale for a bylaw change proposed by the Session that would reduce the quorum required to conduct business at a congregational/corporation meeting from one-tenth to one-twentieth of the church membership. In our large church, it is becoming more difficult to attain the quorum due to changing attendance habits, and in particular, the difficulties caused by the continuing global pandemic and social distancing protocols. **Motion was made, seconded, and passed: To amend paragraph 11 of the Bylaws of the Congregation/Corporation as follows: A quorum shall consist of the moderator, secretary, and ~~one-tenth~~ one-twentieth of the current membership.**

FOUNDATION REPORT: President of the Foundation Chris Bonnet referred to the detailed annual report of the Foundation set forth in the 2020 Annual Report. He summarized that the Foundation approved 2020 grants totaling \$281,473 from its unrestricted funds for mission and church capital related projects. This exceeded its 2020 grant guideline by \$33,773, which excess was approved by votes of the Foundation and the Session per the bylaws. President Bonnet recapped the grant requests approved in 2020, a list of which are set forth in the 2020 Annual Report. The Foundation ended the year with a balance of \$8,162,235 in restricted and unrestricted assets. Restricted assets include the Memorial Garden Fund (\$146,314), the Scholarship Fund (\$71,566), and the Food Pantry Fund (\$95,040). President Bonnet recognized the 2020 Board of Directors of the Foundation, particularly retiring directors Treasurer Sonia Veal-Volino and Secretary Leslie Jeffrey, and thanked all directors for their valuable leadership.

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CLOSING REMARKS BY MODERATOR: Dr. McConnell stated that the Extra Mile Campaign continues to bear fruit and renovations continued throughout the year. He thanked the Geyer and Jackson families for their generous donations for the renovations of the Chapel and the Children’s Room. Dr. McConnell thanked all of the staff for their tireless hard work during this difficult time of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, extra mission efforts, particularly the Food Pantry, made a big difference to those who are hardest hit in our community. He thanked Food Ministry Coordinator Kathy Robinett for her steady leadership. He also thanked Media Director Don Prieur for the enormous efforts he and his ministry members put into making the expanded digital ministry a success. Increased digital communication continues to be essential for the life of our congregation, as many members remain homebound. Dr. McConnell closed by saying that God came through this past year in amazing ways. As the new year begins and the uncertainties of the pandemic continue, he reminded us to “Keep Taking Care of Each Other.”

There being no further business to come before the Congregation and the Corporation, **motion was made, seconded, and passed: To adjourn the meeting** at approximately 10:07 AM with a closing prayer and benediction by Dr. McConnell.

TO BE SIGNED AFTER APPROVAL AT NEXT CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

By: _____
The Rev. Dr. Stephen D. McConnell
Moderator

By: _____
Linda R. Getzen
Secretary of the Annual Meeting

Attachments: 2021 Terms of Call for the Pastors
2020 Annual Report