

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

**SARASOTA, FLORIDA
January 28, 2018**

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”), was held at 12 PM on Sunday, January 28, 2018, in the Sanctuary. Notice was given on two consecutive Sundays prior to the meeting and in churchwide publications.

QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER: Observing over 10% of the members in attendance, a quorum was declared by the Clerk to the Session and Secretary of the Corporation Linda Getzen. Also present was Vice President of the Corporation Andrea Jackson (in the absence of President Tom Taylor, who was unable to attend). Senior Pastor The Rev. Dr. Stephen D. McConnell served as Moderator and called the meeting to order.

OPENING PRAYER: Dr. McConnell opened the meeting with prayer. He noted the new format for the Annual Report and recognized Community Engagement Director Sarah Soboleski for her work.

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 29, 2017, and a Special Meeting of the Congregation held on April 30, 2017 (to appoint an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee).

MEMORIAL MOMENT: Congregational Care 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 2017, noting that their names are listed in the Statistical Report in the 2017 Annual Report. [*The 2017 Annual Report is attached to the official minutes*].

REPORT FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE: APNC Chair Warren Middleton introduced the members of the committee and thanked them for their service. Mr.

Middleton then presented the final report of the committee. He gave an overview of the work of the APNC in its search for an Associate Pastor for Congregational Mission. The APNC gave the recommendation to the congregation that Laurie Haas be called to serve. Such call will be effective upon her ordination and installation, and Peace River Presbytery be asked to concur with the call. If the way be clear, she will be ordained and installed sometime in May, when her family can be present. **A MOTION WAS MADE, SECONDED, AND PASSED: To vote by acclamation. A MOTION COMING FROM THE COMMITTEE WAS MADE AND PASSED: To call Laurie Haas to serve as Associate Pastor. A MOTION COMING FROM THE COMMITTEE WAS MADE AND PASSED: To approve the Terms of Call for Laurie Haas as presented and as reflected in the 2018 budget.** [See 2018 Terms of Call attached to the official minutes]. Her pastoral duties will begin on April 1. Her title will be Associate Pastor for Congregational Mission. Upon her return to the meeting, Laurie Haas received applause from the Congregation. **A MOTION WAS MADE, SECONDED, AND PASSED: To dismiss the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee with gratitude for their service.**

REPORT FROM NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Nominating Committee Chair Robin Segó introduced the members of the committee and thanked them for their service. Elder Segó then presented the slate of nominees for Elders to serve on the Session -- Class of 2021. There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed. **A MOTION COMING FROM THE COMMITTEE WAS MADE AND PASSED: To accept the following to serve as Elders -- Class of 2021:**

Joan Emrich Cliff McHenry Louis Stern Sandi Stewart

Elder Segó then presented the slate of nominees to the Executive Committee of the Board of Deacons -- Class of 2021. There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed. **A MOTION COMING FROM THE COMMITTEE WAS MADE AND PASSED: To accept the following to serve on the Executive Committee of the Board of Deacons -- Class of 2021:**

Barry Buchanan Judy Colvin Victor McMurry
Maxine Perry Stephen Soboleski John Kennedy

Elder Segó then presented the slate of nominees for those Deacons known as Shepherding Deacons -- Class of 2021. There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed. **A MOTION COMING FROM THE COMMITTEE WAS MADE AND PASSED: To accept the following to serve as Shepherding Deacons -- Class of 2021:**

Aiello, Marylyn	Davis, Shirley	Griffith, Karen
Banister, Kathy	Eigsti, Marilyn	Guice, Susan
Banister, Tim	Falkenthal, Judy	Halderman, Linda
Beane, Judy	French, Corrine	Higley, Susan
Biss-Barbera, Kathy	Gilbert, Janice	Jones, Anne
Church, Martha	Goodwin, Katy	LaFollette, Alice
Cofer, Barbara	Grancagnolo, Dianna	LaFollette, Bud

Lane, Edith
Mahan, Diane
McFarland, Marci
McKinnon, Susan
McMurry, Debra
Michael, Dianne
Morgan, Victoria
Moulton, Mary-Lou
Nicolai, Marcia
Nippert, Linda

Patterson, Frances
Patterson, Robert
Powell, Jean
Putnam, Carol
Reynolds, Andrea
Reynolds, Jack
Sax, Charles
Shumway, Lisa
Soboleski, Sarah
Twible, Barbara

Veith, Ann
Washchuk, Carol
Washchuk, Gene
Weaver, Larry
Weist, Joni
Widen, Ann
Williams, David
Williams, Pamela
Wulf, Shirley

Elder Segó then presented the slate of nominees for the Memorial Garden Board – Two for the Class of 2021 and one for the Class of 2020. There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed. **A MOTION COMING FROM THE COMMITTEE WAS MADE AND PASSED: To accept the following to serve as members of the Memorial Garden Board:**

Class of 2021: Sue Angle and Ethel Webb

Class of 2020 (filling an unexpired term): Virginia Greenawalt

Elder Segó then presented the slate of nominees for the Nominating Committee -- Class of 2020 (each class serves a two-year term). There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed. **A MOTION COMING FROM THE COMMITTEE WAS MADE AND PASSED: To accept the following to serve as members of the Nominating Committee -- Class of 2020:**

Sally Irwin

Brenda Tucker

Don Schalekamp

Reid Wettersten

PALMS CENTER CONSTRUCTION REPORT: Chair of the Building Committee, Elder Bill Reynolds reported that the Palms Center is nearing completion. He provided an update on the Palms Center project. A certificate of occupancy is anticipated in about 5 weeks. He asked for prayers regarding its completion and for the future use of the facility. Questions were answered. Dr. McConnell said that plans for the grand opening will be announced soon. The budget for the Open Palms campaign was reviewed. The Mission portion has been distributed, work is continuing the Deferred Maintenance portion, and, as reported the building is nearing completion. A line of credit is available but has not been drawn on yet. Questions were answered. As a segue to the presentation of the 2018 budget, Dr. McConnell explained the realignment of the 2018 budget and the shift in priorities as Church of the Palms strives to be a relevant presence in a changing community and strives to grow as a congregation.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

1. **REVIEW OF 2018 FINANCIAL REPORT AND 2018 BUDGET:** Administration & Finance Committee acting Chair, Elder Andrea Jackson introduced the committee members and asked for special prayers for President Elder Tom Taylor and his wife Sally, who is in hospice care. Elder Jackson provided an overview of the Church Financial Report, which is printed in the 2017 Annual Report. The Report reflects the 2017 budget, 2017 actual, and the 2018 budget. As

the Palms Center building project nears its completion, Elder Jackson asked the members of the Congregation to consider paying their campaign pledges ahead of schedule. As final figures are available, work will continue about how best to fund the remainder of the Open Palms budget. The Foundation is in conversation with the Administration & Finance Committee on how it can best work alongside the church to fulfill capital needs and mission benevolences. Questions were answered.

2. **TERMS OF CALL:** Prior to discussion of the Terms of Call for the called pastors, Personnel Committee Chair Elder Marlene Petro excused Dr. McConnell, Dr. Browne, and Laurie Haas from the meeting. The Secretary assumed the role of Moderator for this portion of the meeting.

Elder Petro introduced and thanked the members of the Personnel Committee for their service during the year. She also thanked the church staff for their work and dedication. She then reviewed Terms of Call for the called pastors as set forth in the Annual Report, which had been discussed with each pastor and were acceptable to each of them. It was noted that Dr. McConnell declined to receive a proposed increase in his salary. Questions were answered.

MOTION WAS MADE, SECONDED, AND PASSED: To approve the Terms of Call for Dr. McConnell as presented and as reflected in the 2018 budget. MOTION WAS MADE, SECONDED, AND PASSED: To approve the Terms of Call for Dr. Browne as presented and as reflected in the 2018 budget. [See Terms of Call attached to the official minutes.] Note: The Clerk to the Session will communicate the terms of call for all pastors to the Stated Clerk of Peace River Presbytery as reflected in the appropriate accounts.] Upon return to the meeting, Dr. McConnell and Dr. Browne and Laurie Haas received applause from the Congregation and were thanked for their ministries. Dr. McConnell resumed as Moderator for the meeting.

MOTION WAS MADE, SECONDED, AND PASSED: To receive the 2018 budget as presented, including the terms of call for the pastors. The budget reflects total anticipated operating income of \$3,873,775.

FOUNDATION REPORT: President of the Foundation Chris Bonnet explained that the Foundation, which was founded over 30 years ago, has distributed approximately \$4,400,000 in grants during its existence pursuant to the terms of its articles of incorporation. Its investments are well managed by UBS and are more than \$7,000,000. In 2017, the selection of auditors and investment was reviewed, as well as the grant policies and procedures. In 2018, the bylaws and article of incorporation will be reviewed. The board meets 6 times per year in alternate months, and the investment committee meets in the remaining months. In 2017, the Foundation approved grants totaling \$96,800 from its unrestricted funds for mission and church capital related projects and distributed \$110,000 to the Church as the second installment of its five-year pledge to the Open Palms capital campaign. Just recently in 2018, the Foundation distributed its third installment of \$110,000 to the Palms capital campaign. President Bonnet recognized the 2017 Board of Directors of the Foundation.

CLOSING REMARKS BY MODERATOR: Dr. McConnell reflected that we are a generous Congregation. That generosity is being called upon. This is a momentous time in the life of the church and the life of the country. The challenge is to be faithful to the gospel. As we take ourselves further into the Light, God will do amazing things. Dr. McConnell is looking forward to taking the journey with the Congregation.

There being no further business to come before the Congregation and the Corporation, upon a **MOTION MADE, SECONDED and PASSED, the meeting was adjourned** at approximately 1:10 PM with a closing prayer by Dr. McConnell.

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

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

Attachments to Official Minutes:
2017 Annual Report
2018 Terms of Call for the Pastors