

**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 12:00 PM on Sunday, January 29, 2017, in the Sanctuary. Notice of the meeting was given on two consecutive Sundays prior to meeting and in church-wide communications.

**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 President of the Corporation Tom Taylor. 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.

**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 31, 2016, and a special meeting of the Congregation held on May 22, 2016 called to receive and vote upon the plan and budget for the Open Palms core plan.

**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 2016, noting that their names are listed in the Statistical Report in the 2016 Annual Meeting Report.

**REPORT FROM NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** Nominating Committee Chair David MacMillan introduced the members of the Nominating Committee and thanked them for their service. He noted that Elder Robin Segó will be serving as the next chair the Committee. Elder MacMillan also thanked the outgoing Elders and Deacons for their service. Elder MacMillan then presented the slate of nominees for Elders to serve on the Session -- Class of 2020. There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed, and a **MOTION WAS MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED:** To accept the following to serve as Elders -- Class of 2020:

<b>Andrea Jackson</b>	<b>John McQueen</b>
<b>Dorothy (Dotti) Tyle</b>	<b>Robin Segó</b>

Elder MacMillan then presented the slate of nominees to the Executive Committee of the Board of Deacons -- Class of 2020. There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed, and a **MOTION WAS MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To accept the following to serve on the Executive Committee of the Board of Deacons -- Class of 2020:**

<b>Robert Luedeka</b>	<b>Marsha Quattlebaum</b>
<b>Barbara Schaal</b>	<b>Richard Thompson</b>
<b>Margaret (Peg) Tonn</b>	<b>Carol Washchuk</b>

Elder MacMillan then presented the slate of nominees for those Deacons known as Shepherding Deacons -- Class of 2020. There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed, and a **MOTION WAS MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To accept the following to serve as Shepherding Deacons -- Class of 2020:**

<b>Asakura, Jeanne</b>	<b>Graper, Rhonda</b>	<b>Mitchell, Kyle</b>
<b>Bacon, Judith</b>	<b>Hancock, Jane</b>	<b>Quattlebaum, Kyle</b>
<b>Bailey, Susan</b>	<b>Hartley, Mary Ann</b>	<b>Schenck, Charles</b>
<b>Bassett, Beverly</b>	<b>Jason, Eric</b>	<b>Smith, Eleanor</b>
<b>Beauchamp, Genevieve</b>	<b>Keck, Deborah</b>	<b>Spivey, Jonathan</b>
<b>Boeger, Julia</b>	<b>Kennedy, John</b>	<b>Todd, Carlene</b>
<b>Branning, Barbara</b>	<b>Kita, Yoko</b>	<b>Unbekant, Eloise</b>
<b>Curtis, Diane</b>	<b>Knudsen, Heidi</b>	<b>Watrous, Helen</b>
<b>Curtis, Donald</b>	<b>Leake, Sandra</b>	<b>Williams, Barbara</b>
<b>Dickinson, Linelle</b>	<b>Lee, Rodney</b>	<b>Wright, Charles</b>
<b>Dickinson, Roger</b>	<b>McAbee, Helen</b>	<b>Wright, Melanie</b>
<b>Fulton, Barbara</b>	<b>McQueen, Mary</b>	<b>Zamary, Nancy</b>
<b>Graeb, Diane</b>	<b>Meade, Gaye</b>	

Elder MacMillan then presented the slate of nominees for the Nominating Committee -- Class of 2019 (each class serves a two-year term) and one nominee to fill an unexpired term ending in 2018. There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed, and a **MOTION WAS MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To accept the following to serve as members of the Nominating Committee:**

**Judith (Judy) Fulton -- Class of 2019**  
**Peter (Pete) Nowak -- Class of 2019**  
**Robert (Bob) Hagen -- Class of 2019**  
**Marcia Baarson -filling one year of an unexpired term - Class of 2018**

Elder MacMillan then presented the slate of nominees for the Memorial Garden Board -- Class of 2020. There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed, and a **MOTION WAS MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To accept the following to serve as members of the Memorial Garden Board -- Class of 2020:**

**Carol Johnson**  
**Ann Lang**

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

1. **REVIEW OF 2016 FINANCES:** Administration & Finance Committee Chair Elder Tom Taylor provided overview of the 2016 finances for the church, including the Early Childhood Center. He was pleased to report a very successful conclusion to giving in December. Elder Taylor noted that improved processes are in place for future budgeting. He thanked Executive Director of Operations Kevin Kenny and the church staff for their hard work on the finances.

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

Elder Petro thanked the members of the Personnel Committee for their service during the year. 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. After questions, **MOTION WAS MADE, SECONDED, AND PASSED: To approve the Terms of Call for Dr. McConnell as presented in the Annual Report and reflected in the 2017 budget, which the Clerk to the Session will communicate to the Clerk of Peace River Presbytery as reflected in the appropriate accounts. MOTION WAS MADE, SECONDED, AND PASSED: To approve the Terms of Call for Dr. Browne as presented in the Annual Report and reflected in the 2017 budget, which the Clerk to the Session will communicate to the Clerk of Peace River Presbytery as reflected in the appropriate accounts.** Upon their return to the meeting, Dr. McConnell and Dr. Browne received applause from the Congregation and were thanked for their ministries.

3. **RECEIPT OF 2017 BUDGET:** Elder Taylor then presented the 2017 budget set forth in the in Church Financial Report portion of the 2016 Annual Report, which reflects the 2016 budget, 2016 actual, and the 2017 budget figures. He was pleased to report that requests from the Global Partners Committee (formerly known as the Mission Committee) were funded in full, and the budget provides for on-campus missions, including the Food Pantry, Early Childhood Center scholarships, and Samaritan Counseling Services. He answered questions from the floor. **MOTION WAS MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To receive the 2017 budget as presented, which sets forth the terms of call for the pastors, and reflects total anticipated contributions and other income, including from the Early Childhood Center, of \$3,855,160.00.**

**BUILDING UPDATE:** Building Committee Chair Elder Bill Reynolds recognized the members of the Building Committee and thanked them for their continuing service. He briefly described the interior of the Palms Center and the site work that will be done. He also provided a summary of the progress toward obtaining the long-awaited site and building permits from Sarasota County. The construction cost will be \$3,974,000, which increased due to rising construction labor costs in the improved economy.

**FOUNDATION REPORT:** President of the Foundation Chris Bonnet recognized the 2016 Board of Directors of the Foundation, thanked outgoing members John Cranor and Phoebe Trumpler, and welcomed incoming members Marlene Petro and Bruce Steves. President Bonnet explained that the Foundation is a separately incorporated 501(c)(3) organization founded over 30 years ago, to receive invest and steward special gifts and bequests pursuant to the terms of its articles of incorporation. Its mission statement is *Honoring the Legacy, Advancing the Mission*. In 2016, the Foundation received two generous bequests totaling almost \$1,600,000. As of December 31, 2016, the Foundation had restricted and unrestricted assets of \$6,300,000. In 2016, the Foundation approved grants totaling \$125,312 from

its unrestricted funds for mission and church capital related projects. The distribution guideline for 2017 grants is \$200,313, which is based on 4% of a 5-year rolling average formula on the unrestricted funds. In 2016, the Foundation distributed \$360,000 on its pledge to the Open Palms building project -- \$110,000 will be paid on the pledge in each of the next 4 years.

**CLOSING REMARKS BY MODERATOR:** Dr. McConnell thanked the saints who have included the Foundation in their estate planning. 2016 was a great year. Church of the Palms is blessed to be able to reach out in mission to express the love of God in our community and the world. We continue to seek to live out our mission to *Love God, Love Neighbor*. To this end, he mentioned that the staff and Session are reading *The Most Loving Place in Town* by Ken Blanchard and Phil Hodges. The staff and elders are praying for and are committed to this path for Church of the Palms. He ended by remarking that “the local church is the hope of the world.”

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 1:03 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: 2016 Annual Report