

**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 26, 2020, in the Sanctuary. Notice was given on 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, 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 27, 2019.

**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 2019, noting that their names are listed in the 2019 Annual Meeting Report.

**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 2023. There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed, and **Motion was made, seconded, and passed: To accept the following to serve as Elders -- Class of 2023:**

**Jeanne Asakura    Andrea Jackson    Jason Morton    Pam Williams**

Elder Sego then presented the slate of nominees to the Executive Committee of the Board of Deacons – 6 members of the Class of 2023 and 1 member of the Class of 2022. There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed, and **Motion was made, seconded, and passed: To accept the following to serve on the Executive Committee of the Board of Deacons -- Class of 2023 (except as indicated):**

<b>Tim Bannister</b>	<b>Elizabeth Dexter</b>	<b>Bob Luedeka</b>	<b>Fee Mercer</b>
<b>Sue Stolberg</b>	<b>Peg Tonn</b>	<b>Tom Webber (Class of 2022)</b>	

Elder Sego then presented the slate of nominees for those Deacons known as Shepherding Deacons -- Class of 2023. There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed, and **Motion was made, seconded, and passed: To accept the following to serve as Shepherding Deacons – Class of 2023:**

<b>Ellen Andersen</b>	<b>Nancy Haas</b>	<b>Vicki Morley</b>
<b>Katherine Andersen</b>	<b>Jane Hancock</b>	<b>Susan Neisler</b>
<b>Roy Andersen</b>	<b>Nancy Hoigne</b>	<b>Sally Nunemaker</b>
<b>Julie Boeger</b>	<b>Eric Jason</b>	<b>Linda Pierce**</b>
<b>Marie Bonifield</b>	<b>Kirk Jeffrey</b>	<b>Donna Piver</b>
<b>Karen Burket</b>	<b>Patricia Jordan</b>	<b>Lee Piver</b>
<b>Bill Cunningham</b>	<b>Deborah Keck</b>	<b>Kyle Quattlebaum</b>
<b>Ellen Cunningham</b>	<b>Yoko Kita-Spivey</b>	<b>Barbara Schaal</b>
<b>Linelle Dickinson</b>	<b>Rick Leuner</b>	<b>Carlene Todd</b>
<b>Roger Dickinson</b>	<b>Dell McAbee</b>	<b>Helen Watrous</b>
<b>Karen Dingle</b>	<b>Diane McCabe</b>	<b>Barbara Williams</b>
<b>Margo Frisosky</b>	<b>Mary McQueen</b>	<b>June Wilson</b>
<b>John Gillespie</b>	<b>Gaye Meade</b>	
<b>Catherine Goshorn</b>	<b>Mary Ellen Midkiff-Willis</b>	

*[\*\*Note: Linda Pierce reported after the annual meeting that her name was on the slate in error. She has declined to serve.]*

Elder Sego then presented the slate of nominees for the Nominating Committee – Class of 2021 (1 member to fill 1 year of an expired term) and Class of 2022 (each class serves a two-year term). There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed, and **Motion was made, seconded, and passed: To accept the following to serve as members of the Nominating Committee -- Class of 2022 (except as indicated):**

<b>John Cavanaugh</b>	<b>Paul Nielsen</b>	<b>Christi Schitea</b>
<b>Mary Ann Vollrath</b>	<b>Judy Rodda (Class of 2021)</b>	

Elder Sego then presented the slate of nominees for the Memorial Garden Board -- Class of 2023. There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed, and **Motion was**

**made, seconded, and passed: To accept the following to serve as members of the Memorial Garden Board -- Class of 2023:**

**Lee Gast**

**Jan Ricci**

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

1. **REVIEW OF 2019 FINANCIAL REPORT AND 2020 BUDGET:** Administration & Finance Committee Chair Andrea Jackson introduced the members of the Administration & Finance Committee. Elder Jackson then provided an overview of the Church Financial Report, printed in the 2019 Annual Report, which reflects the 2019 budget, 2019 actual, and the 2020 budget. She also highlighted the achievements in 2019, including ending the year with a significant surplus that will be allocated among capital, mission, and sabbatical uses. The 2020 budget is 6½% higher than the 2019 budget, but thanks to the 2019 surplus, is only about 1% higher than the 2019 actual numbers. Elder Jackson thanked the Congregation for their generosity during 2019, and the church staff for their careful management of expenses. The Open Palms Extra Mile Campaign is to be celebrated for achieving \$960,000 of its \$1 million goal. Joy, Peace, and Love continue to inspire our Congregation. *Note: The Motion to receive the 2020 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 reviewed Terms of Call for the called pastors as presented, which had been discussed with each pastor and were acceptable to each of them. The Personnel Committee had originally proposed a 3% increase in the combined salary/housing allowances figures for all three pastors. Dr. McConnell asked that his increase be limited to 2%. A 4% increase was then proposed for the Associate Pastors. In response to a question, it was noted that, for IRS purposes, the pastors may allocate their total salary between the Salary (taxable) and Housing (non-taxable) line items shown in their Terms of Call. In addition, Elder Emrich noted that all pastors are considered self-employed for social security purposes and pay a self-employment tax. Therefore, churches generally provide a social security allowance line item (it is taxable), to their pastors to pay at least half of the self-employment tax. Elder Emrich also explained that the salary/housing allowance figures for our pastors are in keeping with trends in Peace River Presbytery. **Motion was made, seconded, and passed: To approve the Terms of Call for the called pastors as presented, and reflected in the 2020 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 these 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 2020 budget as presented, reflecting total anticipated income and expenses of \$4,146,484.**

**FOUNDATION REPORT:** President of the Foundation Chris Bonnet recognized the 2019 Board of Directors of the Foundation and thanked them for their valuable leadership. President Bonnet explained that in 2019, the Foundation approved grants totaling \$231,000 from its unrestricted funds for mission and church capital related projects. Included was \$54,000 for the Faith and Society Speaker Series. In addition, the Foundation donated \$125,000 to the Open Palms Extra Mile Campaign in response to a challenge goal met by the Congregation; provided \$15,000 to purchase a van for the Honduras Eye Clinic; and provided \$37,000 in Theological Leadership Grants. The Foundation ended the year with a balance of \$7,352,342 in unrestricted and restricted assets. Restricted assets include the Memorial Garden Fund, the Scholarship Fund, and the Food Pantry Fund. Fees incurred by the Foundation were for investment management services provided by professional investment advisor UBS. The distribution guideline for 2020 grants is \$247,699, which is based on 4% of a 5-year rolling average formula on the unrestricted funds and a 6.76% increase over 2019. President Bonnet thanked the Congregation for its generous support of the Foundation.

**CLOSING REMARKS BY MODERATOR:** Dr. McConnell acknowledged and thanked the church officers. He is grateful to work alongside great people. He thanked the Congregation for its generosity in giving time, talent, and treasure. The local church is the hope of the world, and Church of the Palms is living out what Jesus means for us to be -- a community of love and grace and mercy for one another. Dr. McConnell is particularly excited about:

The Well-Being ministry – God’s love for us is a whole love – of body, mind, and spirit,  
The Palms Center – a growing ministry of community activities, and  
The Senior Well-Being initiative – a group that is exploring ways Church of the Palms can best serve its older population.

He acknowledged and thanked the church staff – they are engaged and dedicated to carrying out the mission of the church. He is looking forward into 2020 as Church of the Palms strives to make a big difference in the life of the community and the world.

There being no further business to come before the Congregation and the Corporation, a **Motion was made, seconded, and passed: To adjourn the meeting** at approximately 12:45 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: 2020 Terms of Call for the Pastors  
2019 Annual Report