

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

**SARASOTA, FLORIDA
JANUARY 30, 2022**

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 30, 2022, in the Sanctuary and via video conference. Notice was given on two consecutive Sundays before the meeting and in churchwide publications.

QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER: Seeing over 5% 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 Andrea Jackson. 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, 2021.

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 2021, noting that their names are listed in the 2021 Annual Meeting 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 to serve on the Session – One nominee to fill an unexpired term in the Class of 2023 and four nominees for the Class of 2025. There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed. **Motion was made, seconded, and passed: To accept the following to serve as Elders:**

Class of 2023: Dimitrios Vafeas

Class of 2025: Lesley Conzelman Darrel Jordan Andrew McFall Marlene Petro

Elder Baarson then presented the slate of nominees to the Executive Committee of the Board of Deacons - Class of 2025. There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed. **Motion was made, seconded, and passed: To accept the following to serve on the Executive Committee of the Board of Deacons - Class of 2025:**

**Jack Brown Barry Buchanan Tom Fulton (2nd term) Chris Mason
Ellen Schaller Dick Thompson**

Elder Baarson then presented the slate of nominees for those Deacons known as Shepherding Deacons -- Class of 2025. There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed.

Motion was made, seconded, and passed: To accept the following to serve as Shepherding Deacons – Class of 2025:

Marylyn Aiello	John Hodson	Lida Rogers
Sherry Brenneman	Eldon Johnson	Pat Rowe
Cheryl Capistrant	Kristen Johnson	Don Schalekamp
Norbert Capistrant	Judy Kiley	Julie Schalekamp
Mary Beth Cordier	Tru Lawton	Kathleen Shinn
Peggy Fry	Barbara MacMillan	Kay Smith
Barbara Fulton	Justin McCormick	Doug Soul
Jan Gilbert	Susan McKinnon	Bill Torrance
Leslie Gillis	Charlene Nowak	Barbara Twible
Linda Halderman	Pete Nowak	Anne Veith
Luz Hartley	Vince Olson	Orin Weisemann
Mary Ann Hartley	Ginger Pavloff	Randi Weisemann
Ken Hixson	Lou Pavloff	Ann Widen
Evelyn Hodson	Martha Richmond	

Elder Baarson then presented the slate of nominees for the Nominating Committee - Class of 2024 (each class serves a two-year term). There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed. **Motion was made, seconded, and passed: To accept the following to serve as members of the Nominating Committee - Class of 2024:**

Ray Bakich Tom Kollenberg Judy Rodda Dotti Tyle

Elder Baarson then presented the slate of nominees for the Memorial Garden Board -- Class of 2025. There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed. **Motion was made, seconded, and passed: To accept the following to serve as members of the Memorial Garden Board - Class of 2025:**

Judy Armitage John McQueen

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

1. **REVIEW OF 2021 FINANCIAL REPORT AND 2022 BUDGET:** Administration & Finance Committee Chair Andrea Jackson introduced and thanked the members of the Administration & Finance Committee and support staff. Elder Jackson then provided an

overview of the Church Financial Report printed in the 2021 Annual Report, which reflects the 2021 budget, 2021 actual, and the 2022 budget. She also highlighted the achievements in 2021, which included ending the year with a surplus, thanks to a large anonymous gift at year end from a remote viewer, the forgiveness of the government PPP loan (used for Palms Pre-school salaries and church salaries during the pandemic closure), the overwhelming generosity of the congregation, and careful management of the expenses by the church staff during the pandemic. The surplus will be directed toward support of our global missions, new ministry initiatives, and discretionary spending. The 2022 budget is an increase of 3% overall from the 2021 budget. Elder Jackson expressed confidence that God will continue to grow our garden.

2. **TERMS OF CALL:** Prior to discussion of the Terms of Call for the called pastors, Personnel Committee Chair Diane Curtis excused Dr. McConnell, Dr. Browne, and Rev. Haas from the meeting.

Elder Curtis thanked the members of the Personnel Committee for their service during the year. She outlined the duties of the Personnel Committee and the process of recommending the Terms of Call for the pastors. She then reviewed proposed Terms of Call for the called pastors, which had been discussed with each pastor and were acceptable to each of them. Executive Director of Operations Pam Gillespie explained the pastors' personal choice to allocate between salary and housing allowances. In keeping with trends in the presbytery, Dr. McConnell and Dr. Browne were given a 3% increase to their total effective salary, and Rev. Haas was given a 5% increase to her total effective salary, to be divided between the salary and housing allowance items as they prefer. **Motion was made, seconded, and passed: To approve the Terms of Call for the called pastors as presented, and reflected in the 2022 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, Dr. Browne, and Rev. Haas received applause from the Congregation thanking them for their ministries.

Motion was made, seconded, and passed: To receive the 2022 budget as presented, reflecting the pastors' Terms of Call, and total anticipated income and expenses of \$4,283,105.

FOUNDATION REPORT: President of the Foundation Chris Bonnet recognized the 2021 Board of Directors of the Foundation and thanked them for their service. In 2021, following its grant guidelines, the Foundation approved grants totaling \$264,446.84 from its unrestricted funds for mission and church capital related projects. Included were grants to Habitat for Humanity; various mission programs, including Peace River Presbytery; the Faith and Society Speakers Series; and capital funds for the walking trail and other improvements to the south parcel of the church campus. The Foundation ended 2021 with restricted and unrestricted funds of \$9,092,441.28. Restricted accounts are managed for the Memorial Garden, the Scholarship Fund, and the Food Pantry. The 2022 grant guideline for unrestricted funds will be \$293,046. Chris Bonnet was thanked and applauded for his 6 years of stewardship serving as President of the Foundation.

CLOSING REMARKS BY MODERATOR: Dr. McConnell recalled the parable of the three servants who were entrusted by their master with varying amounts of talents. Church of the Palms has been showered with gifts of time, talent, and treasure – coming in all shapes and sizes. Looking to the future, Dr McConnell mentioned his personal commitment to the Legacy Society of Church of the Palms. He stressed that it is the ministry of the church to change the world and society – it is a challenge to do something different -- and that the year ahead is an opportunity for Church of the Palms to use our talents for God.

There being no further business to come before the Congregation and the Corporation, upon a **Motion was made, seconded, and passed, the meeting was adjourned** at approximately 12:42 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: 2022 Terms of Call for the Pastors
2021 Annual Report