

DRAFT Minutes

Old First Reformed Church of Christ
Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting
January 29, 2017

A Potluck Luncheon, singing Happy 90th Birthday to Lois Nigsch, and a Hymn Sing preceded the Annual Meeting. The Meeting was called to order by Larry Waddell and opened with a Prayer by Pastor Michael. Attendance sheet is attached.

Handouts include: Annual Report 2016, Outreach SLG Proposal, and Summary of Actions at 2016 Annual Meeting.

Motion to offer voice to anyone present who is not a member.

Motion Carried.

Motion to approve Summary of Actions for January 2016 Annual Congregational Meeting

Motion Carried.

Summary of Actions is adopted into the record.

Reports on 2016 Ministry presented by SLGs and Elders

Report of the Parcel Committee - presented by Jonathan Atwood on behalf of committee

Met with Real Estate Professional to evaluate worth of property

Options: Sell, Partner with other service organizations, or do nothing.

Work is still on going, expect to make a presentation to elders within a few months, Elders will make recommendations and schedule meeting to discuss with the congregation.

Questions and Answers followed:

1. Timetable for Action-

A: Originally July 2016, Revised - final recommendation to Elders within a few months and hope to present by spring.

2. Comment on Timing: Deferred maintenance on buildings requires action sooner rather than later.

A: More complicated than originally thought great group of committee members who have done lots of work still evaluating scenarios.

3. Who are possible partners?

A: Project Home, Help USA, and Community Ventures

4. Comment on Possible Outcomes: Excited about partnership opportunities rather than selling.

A: Will examine scenarios carefully. Partnering takes a while.

Thanks to Jonathan and the Committee for their work.

Presentation on Capital Campaign Construction Committee. Presented by Beth Walker on behalf of the committee

Work that has been done or will be completed shortly in phase 1

New and Improved light fixtures

Replacing bulbs

New boiler
New insides to elevator
Push Bar on door
Windows are in process
Painting
Sound system work projected at \$20-25 K – need expertise

1st phase of work to be done by March- April 2017

Questions and Answers:

Can you go outside of Philadelphia for contractors?

A: Yes, already done

Discussion of Outreach Proposal by Stephen Wilhite on behalf of committee

Proposal to create 501(c) 3 to coordinate body of outreach activities.

Purpose is to strengthen what we are doing; we will not farm-out outreach activities. The intent is to position ourselves to do more

Discussion and support rationale for 501(c)3 followed:

1. 501(c)3 provides a better structure raises level of administrative organization and accountability with clearer lines of responsibility, makes work more visible
2. Increases opportunity for government and outside private funding which is not available to a church. Potential for matching gifts from corporations.
3. Potential for partnership with other 501(c)3. We cannot do this work alone. Demand is high. Invite others to have seats on the board.
4. Mission: Go where we need to go, Be presence of God's love and open door to other opportunities, Step out in Faith

Will need to set up entity with By Laws for operation

Questions and Answers followed:

1. Why now? This has been discussed before.
A: Committee held listening sessions among church members and there is broad based support. This work is central to our mission, time is right to grow it, need structure and resources. There are no guarantees but we are hopeful. It's an incremental process.
2. Commendation for the spirit and energy being displayed; opportunities to address large issues with these actions.
3. Comment: 30 years ago this was not feasible; now it seems more feasible. The church has more financial stability and resources now.
4. Costs of legal work:
A: angel gift for initial filing fees, and incorporation. We will hope for some Pro Bono support.
5. Comment: Burden of reporting with government funding and private funds.
A: Will need structure to assure accountability and meet requirements.

Thanks to Committee and supporters.

**Motion to Move forward with 501(c)3 Made and Seconded by Acclimation.
Move to Adopt Motion: Passed Unanimously.**

Presentation of 2017 Budget – Jonathan Vogan as SLG Chair

Noteworthy Items in Budget:

1. Real increases for staff
2. Moving Money out of things that don't matter relative to mission into things that do matter
3. Financial Ability to contract for Pastoral support on Part- time basis during Michael's sabbatical
4. Aspirational Budget: Better than last year but still need and want more pledges. Pledge cards distributed.

Motion to approve Budget made and seconded.

Motion Carried: Budget adopted.

Call to Serve presented by Beth Walker

Thank you to all who prayerfully considered the call.

Thank you to those stepping down and those who will serve. Members shared stories of their own call to services. When God calls, say yes!

Gifts and Talents Handout distributed for members to complete and return.

Slate of Leaders was amended and adopted to include: Larry serving a 3rd term as Elder and Suzanne Cole as Director of Community Engagement.

Motion to Approve Slate as amended made and seconded.

Motion Carried: Slate of Leaders Adopted.

The meeting adjourned after a Closing Prayer and Singing of "The Church's One Foundation".

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Kathy Sykes