

## **DRAFT MINUTES**

Old First Reformed United Church of Christ  
Minutes for the 2021 Annual Congregational Meeting  
Sunday, January 20, 2022

The meeting was held remotely, online via Zoom, to abide by the church's continued commitment to the COVID-19 safety procedures. Reports, budgets, agenda, slate of elections, and other information for the Meeting were all provided to the congregation prior to the meeting, online on the church's website. Those documents should be referred to for details related to actions recorded here.

### **Starting the meeting**

- ❖ Co-Moderator of the Elders, Julie Steiner, called the meeting to order.
- ❖ The congregation sang the Opening Hymn – “He Leadeth Me.”
- ❖ A quorum was called and was present.
- ❖ Motion to give voice to non-members (without a vote)
  - Motion was made by Skip Waterbury, seconded by Beth Walker.
- ❖ Approval of last year's (2020) Annual Meeting minutes
  - Motion to accept the minutes was made by Richard Kalwaic, seconded by Tony Merlo.
  - The minutes were approved.
- ❖ Approval of the Reports from last year's Annual Meeting
  - Motion to accept the Reports was made by Jim Dyer, seconded by Nancy Fleming.
  - The Reports were approved.

### **Review of the Financials for 2021**

- ❖ Adam Sherr presented the Financial Secretary's Report.
- ❖ For 2021, Old First finished at over 94% of pledges, with a total of \$236,662 in member giving.
- ❖ Old First also finished the year as a 5 For 5 church for the UCC's special giving funds.
- ❖ All in all, financial giving is incredibly strong, even in our uncertain times.
- ❖ Jonathan Vogan presented the Treasurer's Report.
- ❖ 2021 giving was very strong, as Adam mentioned, and the financial health of the church overall is strong.
- ❖ It also helps that nothing significant broke down during 2021.
- ❖ Old First was able to end the year comfortably in the black.

## 2022 Proposed Budget

- ❖ The Proposed Budget for 2022 was presented by Jonathan Vogan.
- ❖ Of note, member giving is up \$10,000.
- ❖ The budget is projected to finish in the black at \$888.
- ❖ Motion to vote by acclamation (only count the “against” votes) was made by Adam Sherr, accepted by Co-Moderator Julie Steiner.
- ❖ Motion to approve the 2022 Budget was made by Steve Wilhite, seconded by Greta Stewart.
- ❖ The 2022 Budget was approved.

## JVMT Report

- ❖ Beth Walker presented details of the Joint Ventures Ministry Team’s current efforts.
- ❖ In 2021, the Old First House project was awarded in total, \$13.5 million.
- ❖ This means that planning for construction is well on the way now.
- ❖ The biggest projects ahead of that construction are emptying out the Christian Ed and Fox Buildings, and preparing the Sanctuary building to house all the work and ministries that will continue on during construction.
- ❖ Other projects include: building new showers, a fully accessible bathroom, washer/dryer area, temporary office space on the East side of the Social Hall, and plans for a drop off area for disability access and deliveries.
- ❖ Allison King has agreed to be the transition photographer.
- ❖ The JVMT brought on new committee members: Nancy Donohue, Allison King, and Linda Dezenski.
- ❖ July 31, 2022 is the date set by Old First to have everything out of the Fox and CE Buildings, so they can be ready for demolition.
- ❖ Jonathan Vogan presented information on the transitional budget for expenses related to the Old First House project (ie. renting storage space, movers, junk haulers, building temporary office space, etc).
- ❖ The income that Old First will receive from the project will arrive at the completion of the project in 2023.
- ❖ We are starting out with a rough budget with general, projected numbers.
- ❖ Expenses outlined in the transitional budget will be covered by the existing funds in the bank account, until Old First receives its share of the income in 2023.
- ❖ Motion to approve the budget.
- ❖ Move for acclamation by Adam Sherr.
- ❖ Transitional Budget for the Old First House project was approved.

## SEAC Presentation

- ❖ Suzanne Cole presented information for the Sanctuary Enhancement and Accessibility Committee.

- ❖ Completed Projects: painting, carpet and pew removal, new chairs, railings in the front windows installed, new music storage, new attic access.
- ❖ Works in Progress: electrical work, lighting upgrades.
- ❖ Challenges:
  - The permit process took longer than expected.
  - There were significant issues with the first carpentry contractor.
  - There have been increased costs from the electrical and carpentry, but thankfully fundraising has kept pace with those increases.
- ❖ Postponed Projects: attic ventilation system, additional chairs, re-painting the reredos

### **SEAC Budget**

- ❖ Dan Bigelow presented the updated SEAC Budget.
- ❖ There were 3 main increases: chancel and carpentry; technology, electrical, and lighting; flooring.
- ❖ Total Campaign income is expected to be \$530,521
- ❖ Total budgeted expenses, plus contingency, is \$517,493
- ❖ Projected project surplus is \$13,028
- ❖ Motion to approve the budget was made by Adam Sherr, seconded by Jonathan Vogan.

### **Celebration of Janice Smith**

- ❖ Janice's endless energy and commitment to the Elders and the SEAC project was celebrated. While she will continue to be chair of SEAC, she is rotating off of the Elders, since her term has ended as of this Annual Meeting.
- ❖ Review and Approval of the Slate of Elections.
- ❖ Julie Steiner made a call to fill empty spots in leadership, specifically for delegates to POWER, Pennsylvania Southeast Conference, and the Philadelphia Association.
- ❖ Motion to approve the elected and appointed leaders was made by Skip Waterbury, seconded by Jim Dyer.

### **Break Out Rooms Discussion**

- ❖ The congregation was split out into 8 breakout rooms, with an Elder in each room and several congregation members in each.
- ❖ Two questions were discussed:
  - When did you first come to Old First and why?
  - What is your hope for Old First this year, or in the near future?

- ❖ After about 10 minutes, the whole group returned together and shared some of the hopes from each group, which included:
  - Returning to the Sanctuary
  - Restarting the sit-down Saturday breakfast and connecting to the community
  - Connecting with folks who will live in the new building
  - Supporting Outreach Ministries
  - New creative ways to worship, including programming for the new residents
  - Bringing in more youth
  - Increasing and supporting service camps
  - Offering Old First as a new and engaging space

### **Ending the Meeting**

- ❖ Closing Hymn – “Amazing Grace,” sung by the congregation.
- ❖ Motion to adjourn, made by Beth Walker, seconded by Bruce Conley.
- ❖ Benediction given by Rev. Michael W. Caine.

Minutes submitted by Devan Johnson, church administrator  
February 3, 2022