

General Board Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2021 – in person and via ZOOM

- ATTENDING** Pamela Jones, Carol Madere, Dak McInnis, Rev. David Chisham, Ray Acardo Tony Fatta, Charlene Landry, Mary Thompson, Beverly Tipton, Judy Lester, Ann Baskin, Mike Wilson, Jo Craddock (Admin. Ass't.)
- ABSENT** Shelly Cody (excused), Debbie Poché (excused), Ann Landry
- OPENING** Pam Jones called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m., and Elder Charlene Landry offered a devotional.
- In Debbie Poché's absence, Jo Craddock introduced the November 2020 meeting minutes, previously distributed for review, for acceptance into the record; and, the 2020 Annual Congregational Meeting minutes for information. Beverly Tipton moved, with second by Carol Madere, and the motion to accept the November 2020 minutes passed without opposition.
- TREASURER** Dak McInnis was called to give the treasurer's report, referencing the document shared with the Board, including the summary of account. He advised that the Finance Committee has a number of items on its agenda for the next meeting, and expects to have a more detailed report at the next Board meeting.
- The housing allowance for Rev. Chisham, passed as part of the 2021 budget accepted at the Annual Congregational meeting was read into the record, and is attached hereto.
- COMMITTEE RPTS.** As most committees have generally been on hiatus during the pandemic and/or holiday season, only the Outreach Committee reported: Judy Lester was commended for a great job in pulling together the Christmas Outreach project, including cookies and cards to homebound or isolating members, along with collecting nearly \$1,000 which was given to CASA to fund their Christmas projects.
- Rev. Chisham noted the beautiful decorations in the church, led by Nancy Fatta, for both Advent and Christmas.
- PROPERTY** Rev. Chisham reported the final discussions with Cribbs (leaving the replaced shingles to age-to-match, and other repairs redone); that during a ballast replacement on the street sign, significant mold and mildew growth was noted. We will follow up with the sign company to determine if there is a recommended program to retard such growth, which diminishes the effect of the sign.
- The subject of a chancel rail was brought back to the active list. Mike Wilson indicated he will follow up with this. The project may be donated, or funded by an interested member.
- OLD BUSINESS** Pam Jones extended her thanks to retiring Board members, secretary Debbie Poché; at large members Tony Fatta, Mary Thompson, and Beverly Tipton; and, Elder Chair Charlene Landry. She further introduced incoming members: Judy Lester who will serve as secretary; and, at large members Ann Baskin, Bill

Trotter, and Mike Wilson. The Elder representative will be determined among the Elders for the March Board meeting.

MINISTERS RPT. Rev. Dr. Chisham distributed the attached Minister's Report, drawing particular attention to the fatigue many may feel now, or as we enter a recovery phase from the pandemic, as experienced following the 2016 flood. It will be important to remember and remind ourselves that the friendships forged, and collegiality created and held now will be all the stronger moving forward, and to not be discouraged.

The numbers available regarding our broadcast of services via Internet, while difficult to pinpoint and of various methodology between the carriers, indicate a sustained interest in online services. A number of factors - ability to regularly attend, pandemic, etc. - suggest that the livestream ministry is one that should be maintained and encouraged.

He opened the floor for suggestions regarding the Future Story initiative, and how it may be affected by the pandemic. Is readjustment or refocus in order? Where do we see ourselves being effective on the other side of this?

The focus on community health initiatives and senior services seems even more important, now, related Dak McInnis and Ann Baskin, and discussion was had regarding how to identify and meet the needs within our reach and create the relationships and community available, and means necessary to cultivate and maintain them.

Reaching more seniors with technology training was suggested by several.

NEW BUSINESS Pam Jones indicated the Pastoral Relations committee was being gathered, and will include this (evangelism to seniors) in their discussion. Rev. Chisham is gathering his committee chairs and should have them in place for announcement at the March meeting. He asked the Financial Committee to keep abreast of the Financial Review team so that is conducted timely.

ADJOURNMENT With no further business before the Board, and with special intention for Carmen Jones who is undergoing surgery on January 27, following a benediction offered by Rev. Chisham, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Poché, Secretary
by Jo Craddock, Admin. Ass't.