



8801 NW 39th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32606 ~ 352-373-1030

Annual Congregational Meeting
February 16, 2020 – 12:30 p.m.

MINUTES

(To Be Approved at the February 21, 2021 Annual Congregational Meeting)

Call to Order – President Pat Wilson

- The meeting was called to order at 12:43 p.m.
- The congregation was reminded to sign the Attendance sheet and to make any changes necessary to update their information. 31 people attended; a quorum was determined.

Opening Prayer – Reverend Eleanor Bentley

Agenda Review – President Pat Wilson

- This meeting was scheduled in compliance with the Bylaws regarding meeting date, absentee, proxy ballots; with the intent to elect two new board members and two alternates.
 - Note: We did not have four candidates, therefore three candidates are on the ballot.

Introduction of Nominating Ministry Team & Explanation of Voting – Vice President Lauri Mills

- Nominating Ministry Team – Board Liaison and VP Lauri Mills; Chairperson (1) Althea Wright; Chairperson (2) Joanie Kniseley; Dee Mitchell; Marilyn Mahon.
 - Note: Althea Wright began the nominating process, but due to personal reasons, had to step down. Joanie Kniseley agreed to complete the term as Chairperson.
- Explanation of Voting – Members were instructed to select two of the three nominees. In addition to signing their ballots, members were asked to legibly print their names. Ballots would then be placed in the ballot box. When that process is completed, the Ballot Committee will retreat from the Sanctuary to count and verify ballots.

Introduction of Ballot Committee and Election of Board of Trustees Members

- The Ballot Committee members were introduced by Vice President Lauri Mills – Gary Coleman, Sue Henry-Young, and Althea Wright.
- Election of Trustees:
 - Candidates' names were read (bios were available to the congregation).
 - Candidates were provided an opportunity to speak.
 - Note: Jackie Ambrow spoke for Candidate Jacque Tatum (who was in the hospital).

Approval of Minutes from Previous Annual Congregational Meeting

After the congregation had sufficient time to review the draft minutes from the March 17, 2019 Special Congregational Meeting, President Pat Wilson called for a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Dee Mitchell made a motion to accept the minutes with the agreed upon changes. Barbara Gordon seconded the motion. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Minister's Report – Reverend Eleanor Bentley

- She thanked everyone for her surprise birthday celebration.
- Volunteer Coordinator Steve Greenough is working hard to reorganize volunteer efforts.
- Bookstore now offers gently used books. Barbara Gordon is purchasing the books.
- A special dedication to Walter Busby for his donation and lending library was held.

Minister's Report – Reverend Eleanor Bentley (Continued)

- The deck renovation is complete.
- White Stone ceremony was a huge success.
Ordered 50 stones and ran out.
We will order 100 next year.
- Angel Tree – 28 tags on tree, 23 taken.
- Ash Wednesday – A special guided meditation service is planned.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Jacque Tatum

- Review of Proposed 2020 Budget
 - Chris Harris spoke for Treasurer Jacque Tatum (who was in the hospital).
 - Finance Committee Members – Gary Coleman, Joanie Kniseley, Saranda Mazur, Jacque Tatum, Chris Harris and Barbara Gordon.
 - Chris Harris reviewed the 2020 Proposed Budget. She explained that the Finance Committee makes recommendations to the Board for approval, which is then presented to the congregation for approval by vote.
 - Gwen Lindsley made a motion to accept the 2020 Budget as presented which was seconded by Gary Coleman and upon vote, the motion passed.
- Capital Campaign
 - Reverend Eleanor Bentley spoke for Treasurer Jacque Tatum (who was in the hospital).
 - Jim and Carla Palmer have agreed to co-chair the committee.
 - Reverend Bentley announced the first priorities will be: parking lot, roof, playground (fence) and carpet.
 - Kick Off Date – TBD (after Easter).

Announcement of 2020 Board of Trustees

- Jacque Tatum and Rupali Robinson were voted to serve as Trustees.
- Phyllis Shepard will serve as 1st Alternate.

President's Report – Pat Wilson

- The Board of Trustees attended two retreats in 2019.
- She thanked the many active volunteers for their service, including the Board.
- President Wilson stated many projects had begun in 2019 and foresees action for completion in 2020.

Ministry Updates

- Building and Grounds
 - A new sound system is needed, but low on the priority list.
- Congregational Care and Prayer
 - Team is in transition.
 - Striving for continuity with Unity teachings.
- Hospitality
 - Hospitality is the most difficult area to find volunteers.
Please see Volunteer Coordinator, if you are interested.
- Mission/Community Outreach
 - Trustee Gabe Coleman is working on a proposal for a community service project.
- Public Relations, Marketing, Social Media
 - Facebook – Livestreaming services discussed.
 - Meet Up – Online gathering.
 - UOG's Website, eBlast, Newsletter – All professionally done and updated frequently with related information, including links. These are very time-consuming tasks. Kudos to Sue Young Henry, Webmaster.
- Usher/Greeter
 - Great teamwork coordinated by Chris Harris.

Ministry Updates (Continued)

- Worship/Platform/Music
 - Per Reverend Eleanor Bentley – Rebecca Vincent is our musician, not music director (yet).
- Youth and Family Ministry
 - Director Gwen Lindsley asked that volunteers be recruited for the Golf Cart. YOU leadership needs to be in classroom when youth arrives.
 - Volunteer teachers are needed. Attendance is growing!
 - In need of a nursery employee.
 - Director Gwen Lindsley asked that the Board Member on Duty let her know. She sometimes needs assistance and it is helpful to know who to go to for help.

For the Good of the Order

- Property Set Back
 - It is time to pursue a more reasonable set back. As it stands now, we could not build or add on to our current building.
 - Our unique forestry prohibits any construction behind our current facility.
 - Subject tabled – will be placed on Board agenda.
- Telephone Landline
 - Only available phone is in Church Administrator’s office, which is locked most of the time.
 - Communication for various reasons needs to be available in the Gathering Room.
 - Charging station for cellphones also recommended.
 - Subject tabled – will be placed on Board agenda.

Adjournment and Closing Prayer

- Gwen Lindsley made a motion to close the meeting.
Sara Long seconded the motion.
Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.
- Reverend Bentley closed the meeting with a prayer.
- Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Donna Bonnell, Board Secretary

Attachment: Agenda
Congregational Sign-In Sheets
Proposed 2020 Budget