

**Casas Adobes Congregational church, UCC, ONA**

**Annual Budget Meeting Minutes: January 26, 2025**

**Recorded by:** Pat Brown, Clerk

**Called to Order:** 10:40 am by Owen Clymer, Moderator

**Opening Prayer:** Offered by Rev. Michael Bush

**Welcome:** Owen Clymer welcomed all to the meeting. He thanked the Council for their support and especially to Dennis Thomas for preparation of the budget. He also thanked the congregation for their generosity and especially to the Stewardship Team led by Mike Wilson for their outstanding work.

**Quorum:** A quorum was verified with 68 present in person, on line and by proxy.

**Approval of 2024 Budget Meeting Minutes:** Margaret Maxwell moved; Judy Leonard seconded.

Motion was approved unanimously. *(Note: 2024 and 2025 Budgets have previously been distributed and may be accessed for review from the church.)*

**2024 Financial Review by Dennis Thomas, Treasurer:**

- Management of Funds is through the teamwork of Anne Bailey, Church Administrator, Dennis Thomas as Council Treasurer, FARM, the Ministers, the church Council and Leadership Team.
- Increased transparency in 2024 was achieved through the publication of the Treasurer's Report, review of investments, the Statement of Need, and a now annual online Zoom meeting the week preceding the Annual Budget Meeting to answer any specific questions the congregation may have.
- \$31,232 provided for Mission Support (6.1 % of Pledge and Plate) plus \$49, 533 in local charities, for total support of approximately \$81,000.
- The Reserve Fund may be thought of as the "checking account" from which money is withdrawn for expenses. At year's end, the balance of the Reserve Fund was \$492,864, an increase of \$26,061 from 2024 despite a November withdrawal of \$35,000 to cover the budget deficit.
- Legacy Fund is for the long-term budget of the church. The account grew by \$67,127 to nearly the \$500,000 threshold after which interest/dividends may be used for church expenses (though Council is allowed through bylaws to spend Legacy Account monies on church expenses as deemed necessary).
- The budgeted deficit was \$78,815, but the actual deficit totaled \$14,499.

**2025 Budget by Dennis Thomas, Treasurer:**

- \$462,932 was made in pledges (an increase of approximately \$18,000 from 2024).
- A Targeted Reserve Fund Withdrawal of \$20,000 has been added to the budget.
- Expense budget for 2025 is \$547,665 (2024 was \$539,265), an increase of \$3,271 from 2024, representing a 0,6% increase in expenses.
- Pledge analysis shows 15 new pledges were made. The number of pledge units is currently 105 (2023 units equaled 117).
- The budget is consistent with Ministerial Vision.
- There remains a gap of approximately \$19,000 deficit for the year.
- The Council and Leadership are pondering directions for the future, i.e. how to manage funds for the church to survive as long as possible and/or how to engage the best mission and ministry of the church for as long as possible. More information will be forthcoming as the year progresses.
- **Budget Approval: Motion to approve the 2025 Budget as presented made by Dennis Thomas.**
- **Second by Ida Heath.**

- **Discussion:**

1. Jud Jones asked if the Reserve and Legacy are the same. Dennis Thomas responded that there are two funds. The Legacy Fund was established in 2013 to be used as Council decides toward the long-term survival of the church. Jud Jones commended the Council in its care of the budget.
2. Alex Cooper thanked the FARM committee and the Council for their work.
3. Gypsy Lyle asked how expenditures differ between Legacy and Reserve Funds. Jean-Marie Huisjen, Chair of the Legacy Fund, responded that the Legacy Fund was established for special projects that help the church to continue its mission. When the Legacy Fund reaches a threshold of \$500,000 interest and dividends may be spent, and the Fund is essentially at the level at this time. Dennis Thomas added that management of the Legacy Fund is part of normal budget process and that Council can decide to use monies from the account for normal operating expenses or if in need due to a deficit. Definition and process for making requests continues to develop.

- **Vote for Approval of 2025 Budget: unanimously approved.**

**Other Business:** Owen Clymer asked if any other business needed to be brought to the floor; no other business was identified.

**Closing Prayer:** Offered by Rev. John Angiulo

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn made by Laura Clymer; second by Alex Cooper; unanimous approval for adjournment. 11:14 am meeting adjourned.