

Colonial Church in Prairie Village

Congregational Meeting Minutes

December 6, 2020

Moderator Bill Sanderson called the Special Congregational Meeting to consider authorization of expenditure of \$15,000 of Pemberton Funds for foundation waterproofing and drainage work at the south side of the building and to consider a By-laws change increasing the amount of obligation or expenditure the governing body can make without consent of the members. The meeting was held via Zoom due to the COVID pandemic.

Bill called the meeting to order at 9:15 am. General comments were made until attendees of the first service and other members sufficient to comprise a quorum were on-line. Bill announced a quorum was present at 9:35 am.

Approving expenditure of \$15,000 to waterproof the foundation walls and make changes to the drainage in the area of the original building was the first item. Bob Burgdorfer, Chair of the Pemberton Fund Task Force, advised the funds were available from the 2020 distribution from the Pemberton Trust. Jim Cook described in more detail the work being done. He noted the project does not include replacement of dry wall which had been removed in the three rooms involved. Harry Morrison moved, Mary Penrose seconded a motion to approve the spending. A majority of those present voted in favor of the motion.

Revision of Article Six, item b(i) to read "No contractual obligation or expenditure of the Church in excess of \$20,000 shall be entered into without authorization of the members, unless the item and payment plan was specified in the annual budget or constitutes an emergency when it is not practical to call a special meeting of members." The limit had been \$10,000. Jim Cook spoke in favor of increasing the limit noting the frequency of major projects and that the leadership is elected by the membership. Heather Brasel noted the change provides leadership discretion of less than 10% of the church's annual budget which is reasonable.

Allan Weil suggested that any expenditure between \$10,000 and \$20,000 be publicized in the Crier two weeks before it was made. Members cited governance transparency and potential donations resulting from member awareness in support of the suggestion.

Mary Penrose moved, Cheri Van Orman seconded a motion to amend the By-Laws to increase the limit to \$20,000 with the provision that any such expenditure between \$10,000 and \$20,000 not previously authorized by the membership be published in the Crier two weeks prior to payment. The motion was passed with ayes exceed 2/3 of those voting.

Those being the only two items specified in the notice of the Special Meeting, the meeting adjourned at 9:50 am.

Russ Townsley

Clerk