

STOWE COMMUNITY CHURCH 2025 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

HELD ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2025



39 members attended in person, plus an online audience, including 11 verified church members casting “approve” votes for each of the motions outlined below and no votes being cast against.

Agenda

Call Meeting to Order at 10:45 am: President Amanda Song noted that only church members can actively participate/vote.

Prayer: Pastor Dan Haugh asked for God’s blessing upon this church and our meeting.

Approve minutes from 2024 Annual Meeting and the Capital Campaign Meeting (vote needed) Lynn Von Trapp made a motion to approve, Scott Noble seconded the motion, and the vote to approve the 2024 annual meeting and capital campaign meeting minutes was unanimous.

President’s Comments: Amanda noted it has been a transformative year in the history of Stowe Community Church, including two significant projects that will have lasting impact in the future of the church. Amanda thanked Nancy Jeffries-Dwyer and Walter Frame for their fund-raising work, as well as Scott Noble’s leadership heading the Development committee. She thanked Chris DeRienzo for her leadership and noted just how much work, time, and commitment it takes to lead in the president role. Amanda thanked the new folks stepping into new board roles in 2025, and Pastor Dan and his beautiful vision for the church.

2024 Operating Results and 2025 Operating Budget: Update on the status of the Means Family bequest. Scott has done work to safeguard the gift thorough a 501(c)(3) and look to grow the endowment as a revenue source for the church as we look to grow what we do in the community and the world. The emphasis will be on missions and Christian education.

Approval of 2025 Operating Budget (vote needed) Nancy Jeffries-Dwyer made a motion to approve, Nancy Small seconded the motion. Statement: Nancy Small also made special mention of the incredible service that Mort Butler contributed in developing the detail in this budget. Question: For the Means Family bequest, where is the money currently and is it in an interest-bearing account? Answer: It’s in the Morgan Stanley account earning a little less than 5%, but the investment committee is looking at ways to grow the fund. The vote to approve the 2025 operating budget was unanimous.

Motion to accept Committee Reports/Annual Report (vote needed): Amanda thanked Heather Stowe for putting together the Annual Report and asked for any questions about the information in it. Maggy Dunphy made a motion to approve, Janet Godin seconded the motion, and the vote to approve the committee reports and annual report was unanimous.

Report on Board Officer Nominations: Greg Morrill presented the nominations on behalf of the nominating committee and noted they are still looking for the clerk position to be filled.

- President: Nancy Jeffries-Dwyer
- Vice President: Nancy Small
- Clerk: TBD
- Treasurer: Skip Wentz
- Chair of Development: Sawyer Smith
- Head Usher: Nan Myers
- Trustees: Maggy Dunphy, Jake Emerick, Dave Myers, and Jim Peterman (Greg noted that trustees serve for two years and that only two are to be voted on now: Maggy Dunphy and Jake Emerick)
- Deacons: Ashley Finlen Copeland, Amy Marshall, Nancy Money, and David Roy (Greg noted only one deacon is being voted on this time: Nancy Money)
- Nominating Committee: Ashley Finlen Copeland, Janet Godin, Nan Myers, Greg Morrill, and Dian Williams

Amanda expressed gratitude for those no longer serving on the board going forward.

Approval of 2025 Officers (vote needed) - David [indistinguishable] made a motion to approve, David Roy seconded the motion. Statement about the slate of officers. Special thanks for Dian Williams' service. The vote to approve the slate of 2025 officers was unanimous.

Comments/Questions by Meeting Participants – Ruth Roy asked where we are numbers-wise in the capital and stewardship campaigns. Amanda said Nancy will be sharing that information in her upcoming remarks.

Incoming President's Comments – Nancy asked the congregation to take a couple of deep breaths and center ourselves. She is honored and humbled by the trust and responsibility of the position. She feels a sense of purpose and gratitude for the challenge ahead and will embrace the journey with faith and an open heart. \$1.7M has been raised toward the goal in preserving this sacred space for future generations. Extended gratitude to the individuals who made it possible, as well as the construction crews. None of this would be possible without the generosity of the donors. During the quiet campaign, donors who gave at a high level will have their names publicly recognized. More than bricks and mortar, this building is our spiritual community. Further, the stewardship campaign goal of \$300K is what keeps the lights on and the staff supported, as well as missions and ministry outside the church. There has been laughter, prayer, and tireless efforts behind the scenes, and an atmosphere alive with purpose and love. These are our priorities: Fulfill more renovation projects (live-stream, kitchen, encourage more income-generating events), elevator, promote ongoing financial stability through team led by Sawyer Smith to generate new ways of maintaining the financial stability. They are looking to share the responsibility, make things more equitable, involve more with input from church members, and invigorate volunteerism. There will be a survey going out asking what can we do to better serve the members, ways we can and should volunteer, how we can promote more opportunities for youth, including the confirmation program, youth choir. Asked for

confirmation program, youth choir. Asked for subscriptions to the Quest and thanked Greg for his work on that. She said it is not the time to sit back and watch and worry and please contribute where you have time talent and treasure to offer. She committed to listen, collaborate, lead with love and shine the light inside as brightly as possible. Nancy recited some lyrics from “this little light of mine I’m going to let it shine” and encouraged everyone to find their little light.

Prayer - Pastor Dan offered a closing prayer and expressed gratitude for Nancy’s leadership.

Adjournment - 11:17 am Lynn von Trapp made a motion to adjourn, Sandy Kuhl seconded the motion, and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.