

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL MEETING
CONGREGATION AND CORPORATION
JANUARY 31, 2021

As with all meetings during the past almost 11 months, the Annual Meeting was held via Zoom video conferencing at 11 a.m. following a combined worship service at 10 a.m. Rev. J.C. Austin served as Moderator for most of the meeting and Sue Farber, Clerk of Session, was appointed Secretary for the meeting. Rev. Sue Bennetch moderated the meeting when Rev. Austin's Terms of Call were presented.

Prior to the meeting, the congregation received the Annual Report and the list of nominees being considered for positions as Elders, Deacons, Trustees and the Nominating Committee members.

Congregational Meeting – Part One

Following an opening prayer by Moderator J.C. Austin, Elder Elizabeth Conard, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate of nominees for all positions; all were approved by unanimous consent.

Elders, Class of 2023: Kari Keyock, Kim Miner, Steve Samuelson, Joanne Turcotte and Al Philpotts (second term).

Deacons, Class of 2023: Jane Masters, Melody Engel (second term), and Phil Fair (second term.)

Trustees, Class of 2023: George Bickford, Maurice Kasmiroski and Robert Hunsicker, M.D. (second term)

Nominating Committee (one-year terms): Matthew Cascioli, Nancy Cramer, Linda Filipovits, Kurt Flammer, Michael Keyock, Wendy Magocs, Irene Maunz, Tracy Samuelson, and Judith Smullen.

Elder Elizabeth Conard, having served two years as Chair of the Nominating Committee, was thanked for her service.

The head of the Deacons Board, Jeanne Hunsicker, gave the annual report of Deacons highlighting the changes necessitated by the pandemic (their full report is available in the Annual Report). Appreciation for the support members have received throughout the year was expressed by the congregation and Rev. Austin.

Meeting of Corporation

In the absence of President of the Board of Trustees Lisa Titus, Rev. Austin gave the Trustees report. It was noted that the Property and Endowment Committees now report directly to the Board of Trustees and the Finance Committee is a joint committee of Session and Trustees.

continued...

Rev. Austin also reported that earlier in the year, the outstanding mortgage was paid off and that the Endowment Funds were in a strong position at year's end.

The status of ongoing litigation with the Grace Church was raised by the Congregation. Rev. Austin reported that it continues to move forward slowly as numerous attempts to resolve the issues have not been answered by Grace Church.

Elders Joanne Kelhart and Phil Clauser summarized the church financial report which is available in the Annual Report. They particularly noted that due to the ongoing mail delivery issues, it appears that not all members received their stewardship mailing and suggested that those with questions contact the Business Office (stewardship information and documents are also available on the church website at fpc-bethlehem.org/donate). Rev. Austin thanked the congregation for their generosity that allows us to continue supporting our ministries.

Congregational Meeting – Part Two

Rev. Austin gave the Session Report highlighting the reports from Session Committees that are available in the Annual Report. He indicated that the Associate Pastor position will focus on worship, engagement, justice, discipleship, service, outreach and children/youth and young adults.

After Rev. Austin was excused, Acting Moderator Rev. Sue Bennetch presented the Terms of Call for Rev. Austin for 2021. She noted that at his request, the terms are unchanged from 2020. By unanimous consent, the Terms were approved.

The meeting adjourned following a closing prayer.