

Plymouth Congregational Church of Christ

United Church of Christ
Annual Business Meeting
January 24, 2021
11:30 a.m. via Webinar

The Annual Business Meeting was held via Zoom Webinar. Rev. Timothy Murphy gave a brief review of how to use the zoom features to interact during the meeting, then Moderator Ahnee Conner called the meeting to order at 11:35 a.m. Moderator Conner confirmed a quorum had been met. At that time there were approximately 75 members in attendance.

Rev. Timothy offered opening prayer.

The consent agenda, including the approval of 2020 Annual Election Meeting minutes and acceptance of 2020 Annual Report, was approved unanimously.

Laura Coon presented the proposed 2021 Budget. She gave a brief overview of 2020's proposed and actual budgets, then summarized the projected budget for 2021, recognizing that there is still uncertainty because of the pandemic. Laura Coon moved for the 2021 Budget to be approved. Mary Bir seconded the motion. The budget was approved by congregational vote.

Lucy Hess presented a proposal from the Deacon's Worship Board to amend the church Bylaws. The amendment's purpose is to establish a more efficient way to determine church membership status. The amendment would change Article X, Section 4, Part G and would update the process by which Deacons make recommendations to Executive Council on determining membership status, switching from an annual review by the Deacons to a review every three years. Lucy Hess moved to approve the proposed amendment. Kirby Volz seconded the motion. The proposed amendment was put to a vote and approved.

On behalf of the Cedars Hope Task Force, Abby Powers and Charlie Carboneau presented a proposal regarding the use of the 527 W. Berry Street property. Abby gave a brief history of the building, then summarized the task force's activities and findings. Given the building's relatively good condition, the task force recommends the building be kept and repaired as necessary. Abby Powers offered a proposal to lease the property to a non-profit organization that provides housing ministry. The proposal also includes the installation of an electric car charging port. The selection of which non-profit organization and further details will be left to Executive Council. Charlie Carboneau moved to approve the proposal. Laura Coon seconded the motion.

Abby Powers then proposed a friendly amendment to the proposal. The friendly amendment would strike the second sentence of the proposal, which sought to limit the lease to one year. Instead, Executive Council will decide the exact length of the lease during the process of selecting a non-profit to use the building.

When discussion was opened up, multiple congregants had questions and/or comments—mostly regarding the electric charging port—and a lively discussion ensued. Jim Schmidt then moved to call the question; Laura Coon seconded. The congregation voted to close the discussion and call the question, and the vote succeeded. The motion to approve the proposal, with the friendly amendment, was then voted on and approved, with 95 congregants voting 'yes,' four voting 'no,' and one abstaining.

Informational Items

Rick Schilb, Assistant Moderator, gave a brief presentation on the overview of Plymouth's governance structure.

Rick Schilb also gave brief report on Growing Hope Globally. Plymouth raised \$7,255 and the total amount raised, in partnership with two other congregations, was over \$17,000.

On behalf of the Associate Pastor Search Task Force, Chair Beth Walker gave an update. After several months of the task force's collaboration, the church profile is now finished and live on the UCC website as of January 5. The task force began receiving candidate profiles soon after, and they are now in the process of scheduling initial interviews.

Rev. Timothy Murphy provided an update on COVID-19 procedures. Plymouth will continue to have services and programming online as the infection numbers are still higher than during the summer. He encouraged continued use of masks and social distancing, as well as vaccination when members are able. He expressed hope that we will be able to resume some in-person gathering this summer as the vaccines become more widely available.

Rev. Ruth Phillips offered a closing benediction and prayer. Eric and Kristen Miller sang a closing song of "Blessed be the Tie that Binds."

Moderator Ahnee Conner then concluded the meeting at 12:54 p.m.

Allie Brown,
Recorder