

Winter Congregational Meeting January 29, 2023

In person and on Zoom

Attendance: 22 in sanctuary and 2 on Zoom

Moderator Tom Yuhasey reviewed procedures for the meeting, pertinent bylaws regarding meetings and communication agreement before calling meeting to order at 11:43 AM

Opening prayer offered by Pastor Enno Limvere

Mission statement read by Moderator Tom Yuhasey

Agenda for meeting reviewed and APPROVED (motion by Steve Aldrich, seconded by Kevin LeVair – approved unanimously)

Minutes of 2022 Summer Congregational Meeting APPROVED (motion by John Bottger, seconded by Kevin LeVair, approved unanimously)

Minutes of 10/2022 Special Congregational Meeting APPROVED (motion by Kevin LeVair, seconded by Nancy Starr, approved unanimously)

2022 Financial Report by Kevin LeVair, Treasurer. Full reports included in the Annual Report. Expenses year less than budgeted. Income met needs. Review of Profit and Loss report. Suggestion made to close this year's books later in Jan 2024 to help accounting. Report APPROVED (motion by John Bottger, seconded by Jodi Yuhasey, approved unanimously)

2023 Proposed Budget presented by Kevin LeVair, Treasurer. Amendments made from printed proposed budget:

- Pledges change from \$11,500 to \$100,000.
- Offerings change from \$10,000 to \$5,000.
- Other cash assets increase from \$30,510 to \$53,960.
- Increase in budgeted salary for Office Manager – from \$5,500 to \$8,700
- Increase in budgeted salary for Custodian – from \$3,925 to \$4,000
- So also increase in taxes from \$10,125 to \$13,575
- Total income needed: now \$164,110.

Discussion about current low cash flow. Lower pledges than expected. This budget will require looking for ways to increase sources of income. It may require the use of endowment funds – an option that, if necessary, would need to be approved by the congregation. People appreciated the listening session Kevin scheduled to discuss budget last weekend.

Proposed Budget as amended and presented by the Treasurer was APPROVED (motion by Jodi Yuhasey, seconded by Nancy Starr, approved unanimously)

Kevin LeVair was thanked by the congregation for his work managing the finances of the church.

Moderator Report from Tom Yuhasey - see written report included in the Annual Report for all the Board of Directors' actions and activities and congregational meetings in 2022. Tom expressed gratitude

for all the ways people are serving the church in this time. Celebrated Pastor Enno Limvere's 3<sup>rd</sup> year with us – first as settled pastor.

Pastor Report from Enno Limvere – see written report included in the Annual Report. We are his favorite church. He expressed positivity for how we are working together. Possibilities for growth and hope for continued willingness to look at possibilities with open minds.

Sandy Stover – congregant who is serving on the Maple Hill Cemetery Board - presented history of the relationship of the UCC church with the Maple Hill Cemetery over the years (timeline included in the Annual Report). The church currently owns 2 plots of land in the Cemetery. The Maple Hill Cemetery Board is a newly organized non-profit organization that would manage and develop the property. The congregation voted in 2020 to gift the property to the Cemetery Board. This has proven legally/logistically impossible and a new request has been made to instead lease this property to the Cemetery Board. A 99-year lease has been proposed.

There was discussion around the termination clause in the lease – 15 days - being too short for a 99 year lease. Discussion around assuring that there be an annual report to the church about the property and proof of liability insurance. Request for deeds to be kept at church.

Vote to rescind plan to gift Maple Hill properties to Maple Hill cemetery board – APPROVED (Steve Aldrich motion, Carol Winter seconded, approved unanimously)

Vote to approve lease of Maple Hill properties to Maple Hill cemetery Board -amended “with UCC Board of Directors working out final lease details” – APPROVED (Rana LeVoir motion, Nancy Starr seconded, Byron motioning amendment, Mike Carlson seconding – both amendment and original motion approved unanimously)

Mission Statement Task Force report: Carol Winter, Steve Aldrich, Bruce Tyler and Jenny Delfs. Gratitude to all congregants who have participated in discussion about the mission statement.

Current Draft Mission Statement 1<sup>st</sup> UCC of Grand Marais:

The Mission of the People of this Church is to:

WELCOME all,

EXPLORE the mysteries of faith,

CELEBRATE and HONOR Creation

WORK for justice and peace

GROW community.

The new version was not ready 2 weeks before the meeting so could not be voted on today. Hope to have final vote at summer meeting or special meeting. Hope to continue the conversation till then.

Closing song offered as prayer – AMEN

Adjournment at 12:51 PM