

UNITED CHURCH *of* UNDERHILL

Annual Meeting Minutes

January 23, 2022

Attendance

Rev. Jen Mihok

Rev. Jill Colley Robinson

[congregation]

Welcome

Rev. Mihok welcomed the congregation in the standing church Zoom meeting and in the sanctuary, thanking everyone for being there. Dan M served as moderator.

The congregation opened the meeting with a hymn. Dan M offered a prayer.

Attendance was taken and a quorum for the Annual Meeting was confirmed by Matt B.

Rev. Jill Colley Robinson, District Superintendent for the United Methodist Church, greeted the congregation and said that she is able to attend for the first portion of the meeting before going to two other annual meetings this morning. Rev. Mihok suggested we switch the confirmation of Tracie Wright (Article 4) to the first order of business while Rev. Colley Robinson is present.

Dan thanked all those who contributed to making the meeting today happen. Dan reviewed the use of Robert's Rules of Order with details on the process being used for the online meeting. We read the *Covenant for Dialogue* and the *Open and Affirming/Reconciling Covenant of the United Church of Underhill* together on screen.

The Warning was read by Dan M.

Dan proposed that Article 4 be discussed first, given that Rev. Colley Robinson would be leaving early to attend another annual meeting. No objections were made.

ARTICLE 4 - Shall the United Church of Underhill re-approve and continue to support Tracie W in her role as a certified lay speaker in The United Methodist church?

Anne C moved and Will W seconded to support Tracie in her role.

The following were discussion points:

- Tracie shared how she has served in this capacity: on the Building Committee for the District, as District Lay Leader, on the Board of Laity for the Conference, and as a guest preacher.
- Rev. Colley Robinson expressed gratitude for the work Tracie does, noting that it is no small commitment and a real gift to the district.
- Comments of support from the congregation were offered including how Tracie has kept us informed of denomination activities and the organization and leadership she provides with the Women of the Word group which meets every week.
- Tracie commented that she has removed herself from the process of ordination as her calling is best served as a certified lay speaker at this time.

Following the above additions and discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 1: To receive, review and approve reports from the Pastor, Church Ministries and committees

Mark S moved and Dave W seconded to accept the article as written. Dan M stepped through each item in the reports asking for additions or corrections.

The following were corrections and/or discussion points:

- *Food Shelf Report*: a question was asked as to whether the church is still the place to drop off food donations. Because the church is not gathering in person at this time, it is best to drop donated food off where it is purchased. Hannaford, Price Chopper, and Jericho Market all have bins.
- *Harvest Crossing Report*:
 - Dan summarized the financial information which was also projected:
 - 2021 Total Pledged: \$77,587.50
 - 2021 Total Received: \$77,587.50

- 2021 Total Income: \$196,305.50; this included two private loans (totalling \$110,000) and a feasibility grant awarded to Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity (\$8,718)
 - 2021 Total Expenses: \$106,762.50; this included a second payment to the landowner, a wetlands assessment and engineering costs
- Al S was thanked for managing the financial accounting of the project.
- It was asked if there is an estimate of the total expense amount required for the project. This amount is still a moving target. The full estimate of infrastructure costs are unknown and there is a plan to sell some lots to Habitat for Humanity.
- *Trustees Report*: appreciation was expressed for the poem in the report. Dan read the poem to the congregation.
- *Nominations Report*: the full report will be revisited in Article 3. A preview of changes needed to service terms listed in the report was provided:
 - Trustees, Dianne S's term ends in 2023 (report states 2024)
 - Trustees, Mark S's term ends in 2024 (report states 2023)
- *Harvest Market Report*: it was noted that this was an incredibly successful year under somewhat difficult circumstances
- *Financial Secretary's Report*: Tracie shared that UCU is moving to a new software system to track giving. It is called "ICON" or "ICONCMO", CMO stands for "church management organization". This software also provides membership tracking, directory management, mailing label creation, and more. Having this software will streamline the current process. The Financial Secretaries will share more as 2021 progresses and the software is rolled out.
- After reading the reports, a comment was made on how much everyone contributes and how busy we are even when we cannot meet in person.

Following the above additions and discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 2: Shall the United Church of Underhill adopt a 2022 annual budget as recommended by the Trustees of the Church in the amount of \$169,416.00?

Bill M moved that the budget recommendation be approved. Tracie W seconded.

The following were discussion points:

- Page 41: In the “Committee & Ministry Expenses” table, under “Worship”, the line item amounts for “Camera operator” and “Music Coordination & Development” are reversed. The amounts are still correct. It was also noted that the Camera Operator is a stipend for when Belinda is not available (Belinda is volunteering in this role today).
- Page 42: In the “Property Maintenance” table, the line item amounts for “Parsonage Bank Loan” and “Parsonage Building maintenance” are reversed. The amounts are still correct.
- Page 41: In the “Operating Expenses” table, for the “Software” line item amount, Bill F noted that the payroll system cost was left out of this total. That makes the Software line item under budget by approximately \$700. Bill offered two options for this correction:
 - One: the budget could be adjusted by \$700, then it would not be balanced.
 - Two: leave the line item as-is and it will overspend; this can be accounted for next year.
 - Bill added to consider that we have been under budget and the amount of pledges has increased by approximately \$1400 since the time of the budget creation. If we adjust for the software difference, we should also adjust the pledge amount.
 - Bill recommended passing the budget as-is given the above information and noting that this is a 0.4% difference overall.
 - Dave C noted that all software costs have been approved by Trustees.
 - Decision was that no amendment is needed.
- A shout out was given to the Trustees and Treasurer for their faithfulness, hard work and detail in managing the budget, answering questions, and keeping the congregation updated.

The motion was passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 3: Shall the United Church of Underhill appoint Church Officers and ministry members as recommended by the Nominating ministry?

Mark S made a motion, Sharon D seconded to accept the article as written.

The following were discussion points:

- Sandy G reiterated the date corrections provided earlier during Article 1:
 - Trustees, Dianne S’s term ends in 2023 (report states 2024)
 - Trustees, Mark S’s term ends in 2024 (report states 2023)

- Rev. Mihok noted that denominational delegates are still needed. The dates and/or locations are still being determined. If anyone is a member and would like to attend, please let Pastor Jen know.
 - The New England United Methodist conference will be June 9-11 in Manchester, NH and will be “hybrid” (in person and online).
 - The United Church of Christ conference is usually in late April in Lake Morey, VT.

The motion to approve the Nominating Ministry recommendations was passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 5 - Other business thought proper by the members attending the meeting

Article 5a: Shall the United Church of Underhill plan to host the Old-Fashioned Harvest Market on September 24-25, 2022?

Anne C made a motion to approve. Fran E seconded.

The following were discussion points:

- Dave C noted that the Steering Committee was a small group this year and expressed gratitude for the contributions of everyone on the committee.
- Dave called out the contributions of time and energy Peter M has made put in with the Steering Committee over many, many years. Peter had to step off the committee last year.
- Dave also thanked Thad L for his contributions to the committee over the last few years. Thad also had to step off the committee last year.
- The Steering Committee is looking for additional members if anyone is willing to join. Tim W and Belinda E will be joining the Steering Committee this year.
- Dan M thanked Dave for his leadership of the Steering Committee. Dave has agreed to chair Harvest Market for another year.

The motion passed unanimously.

General Comments

- Kathy W is stepping away as co-chair of Clutter Barn. There is still a need to fill that spot if anyone is interested. Sharon D will continue to serve as the other co-chair.

- Dianne S noted that Dan M is stepping down as Church Council chair and expressed appreciation of Dan's time and leadership in this role over the past few years.

Closing Prayer and Hymn

A closing prayer was offered by Rev. Mihok. The congregation closed with a hymn.

ARTICLE 6: To adjourn

Roland B made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Mark S. There was no discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Luther