

FIRST PARISH CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL

United Church of Christ
Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING June 06, 2010

Mr. Steve Carhart, Moderator, declared a quorum present there being in excess of 28 members (approximately 41 active members present) and opened the meeting at 11:50 am...

Rev. John Hughes provided the invocation.

The Moderator then thanked those present for attending, explained that this is the Annual Church meeting and outlined procedures for the meeting process. He stated that non-members could be present and speak with his permission, but could not be included in voting. When asked about changes to any reports before starting the meeting, the following were requested:

- ❖ The Warrant: Article VI should read Article V. (typo)
- ❖ Clerk's report page 24—Total active membership should be 277 due to 6 confirmands joining today plus the transfer of Barry Blaisdell to active status today.
- ❖ Nominating Committee: pages 4 & 6. Add Christiane Alsop (2011) to Christian Ed committee.

The Annual Report containing the warrant and reports has been properly provided and were available to all present. At the Moderator's request, George Nickless, Clerk, then read the warrant. The Moderator then stated that the meeting was being recorded.

ARTICLE I: to accept the report of the Annual Meeting held on June 7, 2009.

Upon **motion** by Jeff Bodmer-Turner and seconded, it was unanimously **VOTED** to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the 2009 Annual Meeting since it was printed and readily available in the Annual Report on pages 49 -54 at the end of the report. No changes were requested.

Upon **motion** by Jeff Bodmer-Turner and seconded, it was unanimously **VOTED** to accept the report.

ARTICLE II: to hear the recommendations of the Nominating Committee and to elect officers, board and committee members of the Church.

Nancy Peterson moved the slate as printed in the Annual Report on pages 4 - 6 with the addition of Christiane Alsop to Christian Ed with a term ending 2011. The motion was seconded.

Nancy thanked all that have served over the past year. She said the committee has been working all year rather than the past few months. It is challenging, and filling the positions is a challenge.

Lelly Smith stated the Council was asked about moving people around on committees. She also said the work is done by the committee all year. She noted there is still one position open on Nominating, and asked for anyone interested to volunteer.

The motion was then **VOTED** and the vote was unanimous.

The audience applauded for the committee's work and for those that had served.

ARTICLE III: to hear and act upon the reports of officers, boards, committees and organizations connected with the church.

The Moderator stated this Article would be handled in two phases, the first being to approve the reports of the past years' activities, the second being a discussion of the 5 year projections. Tilly Pick had conducted a survey which the committees used in projecting their visions for the next 5 years.

The Moderator then went through each report as listed in the Index, starting with the Pastor and ending with the Clock Winders. Comments as follows:

- ❖ Clerk's historical data, page 27. The dates need correcting under both S.S. students and under teachers. The last two lines of each should read "9/08 thru 5/09" and "9/09 thru 5/10".
- ❖ Mary Martin Fund, page 47. It was stated that this was the most informative report from their committee possibly ever, and they should be commended.

After proceeding through all reports, Sandy Bodmer-Turner **moved** to accept all reports, seconded. The motion was then brought to a vote, and **VOTED** unanimously.

The Moderator passed out highlights of Planning Response to the Survey Findings. The findings are briefly outlined as reported by Steve:

- ❖ Sunday service: more attention to youth in worship, careful innovation, a review committee to work on new ideas.
- ❖ Music: planning of outreach events, some growth and innovation.
- ❖ Missions: there is much unrealized potential. Support needed on actions and initiatives.
- ❖ Christian Ed: strong staff needed with support. Youth in worship. Long term plan developing with more participation.
- ❖ Intergenerational communications. The playgroup, faithful families and post service events are all continuing and fruitful. Mission events could be included.
- ❖ Communications: we are trying to tailor to needs. Improve the web base, and do personal networking.
- ❖ Outreach: This is ongoing with the playgroup, cricket articles, publicity program. The jazz program needs review.
- ❖ "Traditions" needs review such as the Jazz Sunday. The Rites of Spring is a pleasant addition. Needs continuing review.
- ❖ Financial strategies require modernizing/automatic pledging, planned giving seminars. A Firm Foundation program to meet the needs of specific repair needs, review and continuation of revenue events with a focus on major donors.

The Moderator then requested all committee chairs to come forward, and provide highlights and comments as to their vision of their committees' projections for the next 5 years, then to be followed by discussion.

Marty Farmer spoke first for Membership & Growth. A pass-out helped all to follow the projections. Membership goal in 5 years is to reach 300, but she found that to do this, it requires about 20 new members a year to offset deaths and transfers, and this will provide about 5 member growth per year. New people are further needed as they not only help with the budget, but rejuvenate the activities of the church and will help sustain it in the future.

Stewardship was next. Paul Gudonis said the annual pledge is needed to sustain progress. Modest increases are to be considered. They have a program to reach new members. Capital needs are met by reaching out when necessary. Estate Planning is now viable—Bridget Murray had provided a service and lecture for all interested and this will continue. The auction (Rites of Spring) was successful, and he has inserted this as an annual event. As they look at the church and chapel buildings, they are looking at how

to encourage more revenue. One proposed plan is to obtain collectible items donated by members which could then be auctioned.

Diaconate: Richard Smith said the survey indicated four areas of interest.

- ❖ The first is the Worship Service. This seemed most important to members. They will be starting a Worship Review Committee formed by the membership to review and get ideas. They hope this committee will help with special services, draw the community in, and assess the service(s).
- ❖ Next is the sound system. It needs improvement. Music is not able to be recorded now. A study and budget will be needed. We are now putting services in the web.
- ❖ Clean up—they wish to expand the clean up and set sights higher. There is other work that can be done and improvements that a group could work on.
- ❖ Lastly, improvement of the welcome we provide to people coming in the church. Who are we, and how do we operate. Publicity for the S.S. and chapel building to be included.

Music: A pass-out was provided. Penny Lapham said the core is in the choir loft. We have lost 2 or 3 members recently, but also have added new members. Most sing until they can't handle the stairs. We have 2 section leaders (soprano & bass), and we need 2 more for the alto and tenor sections. They really help the whole choir in rehearsing and singing. We have 24 – 25 members now, and would like up to 28 by 2015 which would pretty much fill the choir loft.

Pastoral Assistant: Judy Haley said she divides her work, sometimes working with the S.S. on Sundays, and during the week on adult programs. Her interest has been in bringing the people together from both buildings. There is a lot of need for parents and adults, and we have the resources to help out. In adult education, she would like Christian Ed to come to the groups to establish relationships. Learning with a purpose is a program where groups meet and come together as a resource for church life. Expenses simply need a 'sharpening of the tools' ---we need better bibles etc. We also need a library shelf of higher quality and current material.

Missions: Mary Ellen Cook said the visions of mission's changes every year. It varies due to the amount of money coming in and from the calls for need. Going by the priority of two surveys, they provide to organizations north of Boston. The emphasis is on food, clothes and shelter. They do work outside this such as the Plummer home at Easter and Christmas, Open Door. In the future, they would spread out the mission project, try to put more information into bulletins and the Bell. They would like to work with the S.S. and youth on projects becoming more active rather than just dispensing funds. They have a need for volunteers to the Beverly Bootstraps. Missions is a work in progress.

Trustees: Paul Driscoll had a pass-out on projections. His music projection for 5 years to include two additional section leaders and occasional instrumentalist would increase the budget by \$43,971 with revenues from concerts of about \$1,425. The Christian Ed budget for the next 5 years would need an additional \$28,085 to cover the summer youth program and other S.S increases. Church expenses for painting trim & clapboard, and completing phase I (support beams) and phase II (moisture control) would call for \$125,000. The chapel expenses for the next 5 years is an increase of \$30,200 to cover electric heat in the Pastor's office, roof shingles, handicap restroom, and replace oil burner. The parsonage may require heating/air-conditioning work at \$8,000. Total aspirational revenues would be \$323,879 in 5 years and total 5 year expenses would be \$336,251. The total need in 5 years would be approximately \$100,000 out of endowment. In the long run, they will look to Stewardship for non member support on projects, and

they will need to prioritize projects. With low interest rates now, taking out a loan is a possibility to be viewed.

There were also pass-outs concerning the Youth Group, Christian Ed, and Sunday School 5 year plans.

Moderator Steve said these were snapshots of the programs—what each would like to do, need to do. Input was now requested from the membership.

Sandy Bodmer-Turner asked about changes in the worship service. While adding acolytes is a good addition, it is not consistent. Could we have better communication on new ideas? Richard Smith replied that they plan to strengthen that service, and they are not quite there yet.

Alison Walker felt that Stewardship would do better if done earlier in the year. Paul Gudonis said it would kick off in Sept and October. He also said it would help if people could inform them earlier that they wish to renew their pledge.

Nancy Peterson asked if we are going to continue with the present model of Christian Ed. Steve Carhart said yes, with some adjustment of hours. We will continue with programs led by Priscilla Duda, Judy Haley and Jared Hamilton.

Christiane Alsop inquired as to the formal program of the Care Team. She felt this program could be an area of great advertisement. Richard Smith said the Care Team has been going for 4 years under Sheila Kafer, and it is an extension of the Diaconate. While it is a team effort, Sheila has been the backbone of the project.

Marty Farmer noted attendance in S.S. is down---she had thought it was expanding. Priscilla Duda said the kids are task oriented. Now we have sports during the church time which has a huge impact. Some people still don't know we have a S.S., and we need to work with publicity. Nancy Peterson said she felt the change in staffing had an impact, and hopes there will be more consistency now.

The Moderator then accepted a motion to accept the 5 year plans to submit to the Church Council, seconded. The **VOTE** was unanimously in favor. Steve noted that this is only a progress report and it will change as time goes on.

ARTICLE IV: to hear and act upon the recommendation of the Church Council that the regular Sunday Service from July 4 to September5, 2010 inclusive shall start at 9:00 a.m.

George Nickless made a **motion** to accept as written, seconded. It was unanimously **VOTED**.

ARTICLE V: To hear and act upon any other business that may come before the meeting

There being no further business, George Nickless made a **motion** to adjourn; seconded. His motion was unanimously **VOTED**. The time was 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
George A. Nickless, Clerk