Minutes of the 262nd Annual Meeting

Feb 2, 2020

Call to Order

The 262nd Annual Meeting of the Norfield Congregational Church was called to order by outgoing Moderator Tracy Pennoyer at 11:00 AM on February 2, 2020. The 2019 Annual Report was distributed to the Congregation.

The clerk, Shivanthi Edwards, provided a summary of the church statistics and established a quorum.

We had 113 members present, as reported by Deacon Adrienne Wallace.

Statistics are as follows: 511 Total Membership; Quorum = 102

Opening

The Opening Prayer was led by Rev Bernard Wilson.

Tracy welcomed everyone and thanked Norfield for allowing her to serve as Moderator. There was a nomination for Woody Bliss to be the Moderator for the meeting.

Moderator's Report

The minutes of the last Annual Meeting were approved and seconded.

Treasurer's Report

Kurt Schreder provided us a summary of last year's financials. Kurt mentioned that the stock market has performed well, other cash income increased by 8% given higher rental income and there was a $5,000 increase in reserves distributed for operations; we allocated a total of $35,000 from reserves for operations. The resulting operating deficit was $13,437, which was better than budgeted.

~~We have a $57,000 operating deficit. The average pledge should be $4,700, in order to meet our deficit, unfortunately the no. of pledges have decreased by 20%. We have a commitment for $580,000 in pledges, this is the lowest amount in recent memory.~~

~~Norfield needs 30 new pledges of $3,000 each to make up the deficit.~~

Board of Trustees has appointed two task forces to address our structural deficit issue – one focusing on revenues and the other expenses. Kurt provided an open invitation to any members wishing to join either task forces.

Larry Marsh inquired if we had any anecdotal evidence of trends by other UCC churches. Rev Thomas responded that Norfield is in a better position than a lot of churches but in general non-profit giving is trending down.

One of the congregation members asked what costs will have to be cut. Kurt responded that HR and maintenance are our biggest expenses.

Budget

The 2020 budget is below target. Pledges are at $580,000 and we have an operating deficit of $57,000. ~~In providing an overview of last year, Kurt mentioned that the stock market has performed well, other cash income increased by 8% given higher rental income and a $5,000 increase in reserves. We withdrew $35,000 from reserves for operations.~~

While the average pledge increased to $4,700, unfortunately the no. of pledges have decreased by 20% over the past last four years. We have a commitment for $580,000 in pledges, this is the lowest amount in recent memory.

To illustrate the shortfall, Norfield would need 30 new pledges of $3,000 each to meet our original Stewardship target.

Given our operating deficit, a decision was made to maintain current spending levels at $710,000.

A motion to approve the 2020 budget was made and approved.

Mary Peniston urged the congregation to increase their pledge by 10% in order to meet the current gap. Norfield coined it the "10% club" – Mary would be the first one to join. Anyone increasing their pledge, should send a note to Stewardship. It was noted that some members had already increased their pledge by 50-100%.

Nominating Committee

Will Lewis thanked all the Boards and respective chairs for their service. A motion to approve the roster as presented in the Annual Report was made and approved.

Woody encouraged all board members to meet in their respective locations after the meeting.

Appointment of new Moderator

Mary Crawford, our new Moderator feels privileged to serve.

She encouraged the church to adapt to the challenges facing us. We should not let the fractures in society weaken our faith.

Mary thanked Tracy, outgoing Moderator for her years of leadership.

Closing Prayer

Rev Thomas closed the meeting with a prayer at 11:40AM.

Woody then made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shivanthi Edwards