

Minutes of the 263rd Annual Meeting

Feb 7, 2021

Call to Order

The 263rd Annual Meeting of the Norfield Congregational Church was called to order by Mary Crawford at 11:10 AM on February 7, 2021. Mary went through meeting logistics and Zoom functionalities as it pertains to the meeting.

The clerk, Shivanthi Edwards and deacon Matt Carrothers, established a quorum with 113 members on the Zoom call.

Statistics are as follows: Total Membership 526; Quorum = 105

Opening

The Opening Prayer was led by Rev Bernard Wilson.

The church covenant was read.

A motion was made to elect the church moderator Mary Peniston, it was seconded and approved.

Approval of minutes

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

Treasurer's Report

Norfield had quite a bit of good news. Despite the pandemic, pledge income was higher than expected. Revenues were 13K above budget. Expenses were well below budget - 1) we spent less on maintenance and 2) less on programming due to the pandemic. We had a \$22K budget surplus. Norfield received a \$75K PPP loan which was forgiven, special recognition was given to Andrew Cummings who oversaw this. Norfield applied and received a second \$66K PPP loan which we expect will be forgiven.

The bad news is status of current pledges. Last year we had a budget for \$580K in pledges, and this year's is about \$513K, a decline of 20% from the past few years. We received 94 pledges, also down significantly from prior years. We need around \$650K in pledges to operate Norfield at normal levels without a deficit. This is Kurt's last year as treasurer, he thanked everyone.

The budget was presented, pledges are down significantly as previously noted. HR budget was down, it did not involve cuts to salaries or headcount. Largest expenditure was maintenance. Insurance premiums went up 20%. PPP funds will be applied for this year's expenditures; hence we can present a balanced budget. Bottom line is we need to maintain discipline in spending and find a way to rebuild our revenues once we return to normal.

Tom Hoffman made a motion to approve budget as presented. John Carlsen seconded the motion.

Mary Peniston took a vote of the congregation. It passed unanimously.

Constitutional Amendments

Eric Braun introduced and read the first amendment: **Article XXI – Increase in term of service of officers and committee members.** After a lot of discussion from the floor, it was agreed that the passing of this and the second amendment to change the name of the Outreach Board would be shelved for a later point. It was difficult to verify the vote count via Zoom in addition to losing members on the call.

Nominating Report

Eric provided the report, what was being presented was predicated on the extension of the term as noted in the amendment. There was concern that there was no quorum to pass any resolutions or change to the constitution.

Motion to have existing members continue on boards till we meet next, it was passed.

Moderator's Report

Mary Crawford thanked Mary Peniston and everyone for their patience. It's been a challenging year for Norfield and the world. Mary Crawford thanked outgoing leaders Tara Quist and Kurt Schreder for their leadership and service.

Closing Prayer

Pastor Thomas closed us in prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shivanthi Edwards