



**MINUTES of the  
Annual Congregational Meeting  
Sunday, March 9, 2025**

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**AGENDA**

**Call to Order & Opening Prayer** - Rev. Nancy Knowles at 10:59 a.m.

**Quorum present** with approximately 60 in attendance.

**1. ACM Opening Motions** - Rev. Nancy Knowles:

- **MOTION: That Deb Gill be elected Chair of the Annual Congregational Meeting. Moved by Janice Sinker and seconded by Carey Eddy. Carried.**
  
- Deb Gill continued with the following motions:
  - **MOTION: That Mary McFadden be elected Recording Secretary of the Annual Congregational Meeting. Moved by Roger Hyatt and seconded by Steve Northey. Carried.**
  - **MOTION: That voting privileges be extended to adherents who are present. Moved by Virginia Scott and seconded by Lori Hyatt. Carried.**
  - **MOTION: That the Agenda be approved. Moved by Karen Etherington and seconded by Jacqui Krech. Carried.**

**2. Act of Remembrance** – Karen Etherington: Karen read each name shown on the screen, pausing for reflection.

**3. Approval of the March 10, 2024 Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes**

- Deb asked for any concerns or questions. There were none.
- **MOTION: to approve the March 10, 2024 Annual Congregational Meeting minutes. Moved by Lois Gill and seconded by Marilyn Beattie. Carried.**

**4. 2024 Annual Report**

- Deb took a few moments to explain and compliment the Executive team, made up of herself, Nancy and Roger.
- Deb went through the Annual Report, giving each team chair and team members praise for all the work that they do. As each team chair was mentioned, the COF gave a round of applause.
- Deb invited the COF to ask any questions of each team report. This was followed by another round of applause!
  - **MOTION to accept reports as written, excluding the Financial and Nominating Reports. Moved by Janice Sinker and seconded by Virginia Scott. Carried.**

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**5. FINANCIAL REPORT – Lori Hyatt was invited to the podium**

- Lori explained that the Financial Report is a draft format.
- Our finances have been sent to Seebach & Co for review. As stated in her report, once reviewed and results are received, the information will be shared.
- An explanation was given that the finance team suggests that every other year our finances are professionally reviewed. The other years they will be done by an appointed independent reviewer.
- Asked for any questions. There were none.
- Lori expressed how pleased the finance team is that through conservative spending and the results of fundraising that our \$45,000 deficit is now actually \$4,500!
- Invited the COF to always ask if concerned about anything to do with finance and that a quarterly report will be shared.
- **Proposed Budget** – asked to review the proposed budget and ask any questions.
- **MOTION to approve the Financial Reports and proposed budget including the Mission & Service Fund target of \$12,000 as presented. Moved by Lori Hyatt and seconded by Steve Northey. Carried.**
- **Appointment of Independent Reviewer for 2025.**
  - Lori asked for a volunteer. No one came forward. This is now handed over to Executive team and Council.
- **At this time, Deb** came back to the podium with sincere compliments to Lori and Rhonda for all their work expertise. Bryan Beattie was also given praise for all the years on Council. This was followed by a standing ovation.

**6. Nominations Committee**

- Special attention was given to the chairs that are leaving – Steve Northey (Ministry & Personnel) and Virginia Scott (Christian Education), and John Scott (Right Relations) was honoured. Both Bill Weber (Ministry & Personnel) and Brenda Heath (Christian Education) were welcomed.
  - **MOTION to accept Nominations Committee Report. Moved by Lori Hyatt and seconded by Lois Gill. Carried.**

**7. Nomination of Trustees:**

- Glen Miller (Chair), Carey Eddy, Doug Kyle, Norm Harris, Marilyn Beattie
  - **MOTION to approve Trustees as named. Moved by Karen Etherington and seconded by Roger Hyatt. Carried.**
  - Marilyn Beattie was introduced as new member of the Trustees.
  - Deb complimented Glen Miller in his role of Trustees chair.

**8. Nomination of Western Ontario Waterways Representatives:**

- Peter Challen
  - **MOTION to approve WOW Representative. Moved by Bill Weber and seconded by Janice Sinker. Carried.**

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**9. Other Items**

- **Flow chart and Governance** - Deb held up the Governance document and made folks aware that it is a reference to our church's organization. It will be posted on the website.
- **Worship time start up in fall 2025** - Roger Hyatt was invited to the podium to talk about the COF choosing a worship service time change. He explained the Council discussion and that it was decided by Council to recommend two choices. The COF was invited to participate directly after the ACM. Participants were to take 3 sticky notes (little hearts) and put them on the two different time choices. One could put all three on one time or spilt them up. Folks that were not in attendance can send email to Roger with their preference. The deadline is March 31, 2025.
  - A question re parking passes was raised. Once the time is known, the passes will reflect the new grace period.
- **Grocery Cards** – Deb sincerely apologized for not including this program while reviewing the Annual Report and complimented Doug Procter on this very successful program.  
**Closing remarks** – Deb shared that she believes today, by the grace of God, we are stronger than ever. This is thanks to our amazing minister, current Council and former leaders, some of whom lead us through the extremely difficult and heartbreaking years of constant pulpit supply, COVID, Ministerial difficulties and Mediation from 2017-2024.  
Deb reflected on the following individuals and praised each: Bryan Beattie – Finance chair, Vince Bury – Accessibility, Ruth Ann Eagleson – Worship and Music Co-chair, Wilma Harris – Worship & Music Co-chair and Accessibility chair, Bob Illman – WOW Representative, Charles McDonald – Council chair and Rosaland MacDonald– Congregational Visitor and WOW representative.
- A round of applause followed.
- **Recognition of Deb Gill** – Steve Northey stood and expressed how grateful the COF is of Deb's excellent leadership skills. This resulted in a standing ovation and enthusiastic round of applause!

**10. Prayer of thanks and grace – Nancy:** along with prayer, Nancy expressed that she is really pleased and humbled to be part of this community and so eager to go forward – “It's going to be awesome”!

**11. Adjournment at 11:38 a.m.**

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Deb Gill,  
Council Chair

Mary McFadden  
Council Secretary