



MINUTES - Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, February 26, 2023
Conducted as part of the worship service

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The **Business** commenced at approximately 10:10 a.m. with approximately 42 in person and 16 on Zoom, making a quorum.

- **ACM Opening Motion:** Rev. Nancy Knowles
 - **MOTION that Deb Gill be elected Chair of the Annual Congregational Meeting. Moved by Betsy Hanes and seconded by Lynn Desjardine. Carried.**
 - **Remainder of Opening Motions:** Deb Gill
 - **MOTION that Mary McFadden be elected Recording Secretary of the Annual Congregational Meeting. Moved by Lois Gill and seconded by Steve Northey. Carried.**
 - **MOTION that voting privileges be extended to adherents who are present. Moved by Lynn Desjardine and seconded by ?. Carried.**
 - **MOTION that the agenda be approved. Moved by Rhonda Manore and seconded by Lynne Desjardine. Carried.**

Act of Remembrance: Deb Gill invited Joanne Barry and Lynne Desjardine to the pulpit to read each of the names as they were shown on the screens.

Approval of Minutes: Deb Gill

- Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes, March 13, 2022.
- Review – there were two amendments.
- **MOTION that the minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting, March 13, 2022, be approved as amended. Moved by Steve Northey and seconded by Bruce McFadden. Carried.**
 - **Amendments: on page 59, Nomination of Trustees – strike out Rosalind MacDonald’s name. On same page corrected spelling of Roasalind’s name.**

2022 Annual Report: Deb Gill

- **Review of Council Update:** (p 3. In the Annual Report)
 - Deb commenced with the recommended “Reset” tasks and stressed that many have been accomplished.
 - Expressed a sincere thanks the Chairs of teams on Council that those that are now Chairs of Working Groups.
 - Heartfelt appreciation was given to Wilma Harris for her many years of devoted work as co-Chair of Worship, which is now referred to as “Worship and Music”.
 - Bryan Beattie was warmly recognized for his many years as Chair of Finance. Mentioned that this in an opportune time to restructure the Finance team.
 - It was explained that Steve Northey will be concentrating on the Stewardship part of Finance.

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- **Review of Council Update (cont'd):**
 - Sherrie Smith, our bookkeeper, was thanked for her service and wished well in her retirement. Rhonda Manore is stepping in as bookkeeper and will combine this job with being the PAR and Envelope Secretary.
 - Glen Miller was thanked for becoming the new Chair of Trustees. Bob Illman was sincerely thanked for his many years as Trustee Chair.
 - Live Streaming and Zoom will continue. Expression of gratitude was given for all the Tech team.
 - The Financial Report will be presented to the Community of Faith (COF) following an external audit by Seebach & Company Chartered Professional Accountants in Clinton. A continuation of the ACM will be determined to review all finances with a two-week notice.
- **Review of Individual Reports:** Deb Gill - Invited to ask questions of any report.
 - At this time, Pat Lane addressed a concern in regard to the “Reorganized Council” referring to letters written to Council, one on December 16, 2019 and the other on February 18, 2022. Pat was invited to speak from the pulpit so that the Zoom population could hear. Parts of the letters were read. Then Pat referred to the Council meetings held on January 2 and January 30, 2023 and read motions that pertained to Council reorganization. Pat questioned the Mediation process. She expressed concern for no apparent closure with mediation and the fact that the Council was reorganized without congregation input.
 - Deb’s response was a clarification of the Council’s governance in that the Council chairs are approved at each ACM. The COF in turn trusts Council on decision making. Some issues that come to Council are of sensitive nature and must be kept private. Deb explained that the Mediation process is complete and a follow up meeting is taking place soon. Deb stated that information from this meeting will be shared with the COF. Through all this process Council has followed the advice from the mediator and representatives from WOW. Deb asked Rev. Nancy to give further response. Rev. Nancy thanked Pat for her concerns and stressed that as Deb explained, some issues have to be kept private. Rev. Nancy also stressed that whatever information can be shared from the Mediation follow up report will be shared with the COF.
 - Ministry & Personnel – Ernie Lane expressed a concern that Steve Northey would have difficulty handling both the jobs of Stewardship and Chair of Ministry and Personnel. He also indicated that Micol Cottrell, the Regional M&P leader’s workshop, was eye opening. Ernie was thanked for his concern.
 - **MOTION to accept reports, excluding: Financial Report, Nominating Report, and other lifted reports. Moved by Betsy Hanes and seconded by Bruce McFadden. Carried.**

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- **Mission & Service Fund Team's** recommendation to the congregation.
 - **MOTION to accept the proposed target of \$15,000 for Mission and Service Fund givings in 2023. Moved by Roger Hyatt and seconded by Lois Gill. Carried.**
 - A question from the floor as the amount given in 2022. The total is not available at this time but it is known that it is close to the target of \$15,000.

Nominations Working Group Report: Deb invited nominations from the floor. As there were none, the names of Council members for 2023 were read.

- **MOTION to elect HSUC Council members as listed in the Nominations report. Moved by Rhonda Manore and seconded by Betsy Hanes. Carried.** Note that this was passed with concerns.
 - Extensive concerns were expressed by Jim Neville as to Bryan Beattie remaining as Chair of Finance for 2023. Jim referred to Luke Nagel's past reviews and recommendation given in the 2022 review. He stated that none of the recommendations from the review have been followed.
- **MOTION to accept the nomination of the Congregational Visitors: Joanne Barry and Lynne Desjardine and Peter Challen and Rosalind MacDonald. Moved by Virginia Scott and seconded by Lori Hyatt. Carried.**

Nomination of Trustees:

- **MOTION to approve Trustees as named: Glen Miller (Chair), Larry Taylor, Norm Harris, John Scott, Doug Kyle and Carey Eddy. Moved by Steve, seconded by Virginia and carried.**

Nomination of Western Ontario Waterways Representatives:

- **MOTION to approve WOW Representatives: Rosalind MacDonald and Bob Illman. Moved by Virginia, seconded by Dennis McIntyre. Carried.**

Any other reports lifted from blanket motion above: Compliments given to Christine Bregman for her work on the Anti-Harassment policy.

● **Other Items attached to website**

- Revised Policy & Procedures
- Anti Harassment policy – was explained that it is required by law. Ours follows the United Church guidelines.
 - Question from Ernie Lane that now following the Anti Harassment conflict steps would be adding more work to members of Council.
 - Deb responded that we had no choice but to follow these guidelines. It was an important process for our staff and volunteers.

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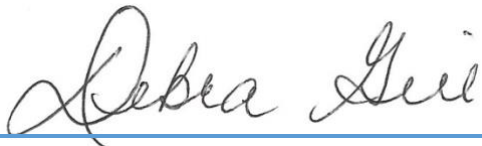
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- **Other Items attached to website – cont'd**

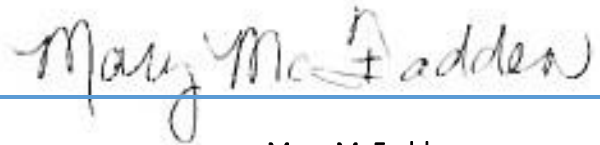
- Question from the floor as to how the number of Wow representatives are determined. It has to do with the numbers of COF members. Deb responded we are just at 200 contributing members.

- **Poem by Ryan Lalonde – “By the Shores of Lake Huron”.** Deb explained who Ryan and family are (live across the street from the church) and that he wrote this poem over Christmas. The poem will be posted on our website and on Facebook.

MOTION to adjourn by Steve Northey at approximately 11:30 a.m.



Deb Gill
Council Chair



Mary McFadden
Council Secretary