

Greendale People's Church

Annual Congregational Meeting

January 31, 20, 2021

I. *Welcome and Opening Prayer*

- The Annual Congregational Meeting commenced at 11:06 a.m.
- The Governing Board Chair, Dennis Christo, welcomed everyone and explained why the Annual Meeting is being held on a virtual platform. The ballot was mailed on 1/21. All ballots must be received no later than 10 days after the Annual Meeting. Dennis asked Rev. Dr. Doug Cederberg to deliver the Opening Prayer.
- Rev. Dr. Doug Cederberg offered a prayer of gratitude for all our blessings and for the power to gather together through technology. He asked for guidance to hear each other and entrust our deliberations in His name.

II. *Declaration of Quorum*

- Clerk, Kim Paré, confirmed a quorum (50 required) with 47 in attendance.

III. *Approval of Minutes from January 26, 2020 Congregational Meeting*

Approval of Minutes from last Congregational Annual Meeting on January 26, 2020. Fran Langille made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected/presented. Robert Converse seconded. There is one correction noted: Janet Whittall was inadvertently left off Team TLC as she was not in attendance at the 1/26/2020 Annual Meeting. She should have been included as a Team TLC member. The congregation voted and unanimously approved the motion as corrected. No abstentions.

Items on the Ballot

- Change the bylaws to allow for Virtual Meetings and Mail-in Balloting. Nancy White said the bylaws simply say the Annual Meeting should take place in January. It doesn't specify venue. We follow Robert's Rules of Order and being incorporated in Massachusetts, we don't need to change the bylaws nor complicate the bylaws. Richard Grayson said the bylaws don't specify how we're supposed to vote other than through a Congregational Meeting. Dennis read the passage from the bylaws and said we're not trying to make it more complicated. Lyn Wasilewski added that the addition of ten days ballot voting pushes the information for the Congregational Meeting into February 10th. Fran Langille said she agrees with previous comments and thinks we shouldn't add more to complicate the bylaws. Marion McLaren said she already sent in her ballot for the new Governing Board members. She wasn't aware of questions to be voted on. She thought the questions were to preview for this meeting. Cindy Schofield said should it be 7 days or 10 days for the ballot return. Dennis clarified that the Governing Board defined ten calendar days. Dave Raphael said the ten calendar days were to include the weekends instead of confusing people with business days. Cindy said the purple sheet said 7 days and should be 10 days total. Ken White suggested tabling this item.

VOTE: No objections. Unanimous approval to accept the change to the ballot to be received ten days post Congregational Meeting.

- Change the quorum requirement from 50 to 30 or 25% of active membership as of December 31st of the year prior to the meeting. Given the 47 in attendance this morning on this virtual platform, Dennis said we're close. Ken White asked if the change affects today's meeting. Dennis said that it's for future meetings.

- The Treasurer ballot question has been withdrawn. Dennis explained that the original intent to include the question about the Treasurer position was to not make the position for a sole person as Bob Converse has done for 20 years.
- Approve the mission statement developed by Team TLC (how God is calling us to further Christ's mission today) after the mission statement is for clarification only and not part of the official mission statement. This was put forth on the ballot. Ken asked if we'll be changing the mission statement in the bylaws. Dennis said we will it in the bylaws, on our website, and wherever else our mission is posted.
- Dennis said there were only two people he's aware of that did not receive a ballot at the time of mailing, Charlotte LeBlanc did receive hers. Cindy (Sue Sundquist's sister) did not receive hers. Karen Allen said she'll mail it out tomorrow.
- Dennis turned the Operating Budget discussion to Treasurer Bob Converse. Bob said he worked with the Finance Team (Charlie Whittall, Karen Allen, Russ Vickstrom, Dave Raphael, Dick Grayson)
- The budget was crafted despite the pandemic. The staff expenses are up 33k due to not having a pastor for part of the year and Rev Kev declining his health insurance to save money. The PPP loan was approved and forgiven. We will reapply for the second round. The Finance Team wants to thank everyone for their financial support throughout this year. Dennis said last year we were only slightly \$700 overbudget given the work of the church continuing throughout the pandemic despite the church being closed. Rod White wants to congratulate the Finance Team for the budget crafted last year that impacted the budget. Going forward for the 2021 budget, he reminded everyone about a statement from Rev Bath, "You don't spend budgets, you spend money." Fran Langille gave a thumbs up and is appreciative of all the talent and gifts from the Finance Team to craft the budget. Russ Vickstrom said the PPP was an absolute gift and even if we don't get approved for the second round, we're in good shape and we have money in the endowment to meet any shortfall. Bob added that the endowment is currently at 700k. We didn't need to touch it last year. Ken said thank you for all the work. Charlie added that investments are up 80k for the year.

V *Election of Governing Board*

- The three returning Governing Board members are (for the second year of a two-year term) Dennis Christo, Kim Paré, David Raphael. The four people on the ballot for the other three Governing Board seats are: Charles Whittall, Nancy White, Robert Converse, and Richard Grayson.
- Under the new bylaws the committees were restructured to six members of a Governing Board and the pastor. The GB members are elected for two years. In the first year, three members were elected for two years and three were for one year. At last year's first GB meeting, three members agreed to be one-year terms: Janet Ordway, Lyn Wasilewski, Bob Converse. Janet excused herself from the board in October due to personal reasons. We asked Charlie Whittall to fill Janet's position and he accepted. Three members agreed to serve two-year terms: Kim Pare, Dave Raphael, Dennis Christo. Ken White asked if there's nominations from the floor. Dennis said he's not sure if this will work as ballots went out and many of those people are not in attendance. Bob said that there were numerous mailings asking for volunteers to serve on the GB. Dennis agreed. He said Nancy White and Dick Grayson are two new people who volunteered to serve on the board. Bob Converse and Charlie Whittall are also on the ballot. We need three positions to be filled by the four candidates. The bylaws allow for current, existing GB members, to run for two more additional terms. Fran asked if Charlie is elected, doesn't he have to serve as the Treasurer. Dave explained that this was the dilemma of the Treasurer question. The Treasurer is not elected by the congregation but the GB members themselves.

- Within the packet, there were updates from the teams. Dennis thanked the teams for their timely submissions, Lyn for collating all of the information and Karen Allen for putting the collated information into one cohesive report. He thanked the team of people who volunteered to complete the mailing (Janet Whittall, Marion McLaren, Dennis Christo, and Karen Allen). There was one hiccup as the Selah report was not published with the final report sent to the congregation. Dick asked if there should be a vote on all items presented. Kim said we could vote but since we have 49 in attendance, just under our 50 quorum it'll be informational as opposed to a passing edict. Cindy asked if the purple sheets are to be mailed by 2/10 to be counted as a record of vote.
- Dennis wanted to thank Lyn Wasilewski for her work on the GB. She was the Vice Chair, the liaison to the Facility Use, all of the people using the church. She's done a herculean job for GPC. She's always the voice of reason and has done a tremendous job in her full-time job and now a second job helping her son, bookkeeping for his electrician's business. Lyn said it's been a privilege and a pleasure.
- Russ expressed his thanks to everyone for their support on his father's passing yesterday evening into the larger life. He was 100 years old. And Russ' hero. Condolences to Russ and his family.
- Rev Doug gave a closing prayer for Russ' father and for the congregation to do God's work in the coming year.

IV. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned.

Members in attendance:

Rev Doug Cederberg	Dennis O'Malley	Russell Vickstrom
Ellen Green	Michelle O'Malley	Fran Langille
Richard Green	Nancy Cimato	Ken White
Al Wasilewski	Carlo Cimato	Nancy White
Lyn Wasilewski	Janet Whittall	Richard Grayson
Dennis Christo	Charles Whittall	David Raphael
Dot Christo	Joyce Smith	William Hackett
Karen Allen	Diane Morin	Deb Hackett
Marion McLaren	Sheri Kline	Janet Ordway
Wilson McLaren	Cindy Schofield	
Kim Pare	Patricia Harnois	
Raymond Leblanc	Cindy Schofield	
Charlotte Leblanc	Virginia Pelkey	
Betsy Converse	Roberta Wolanski (phone)	
Robert Converse	Claude Lohnes (phone)	
Rod White	Deborah Richards	
Anne Kruse	Virginia Warden	
Joanne Wilder	George Warden	
Michael Wilder	Donna Fife	