

# Minutes of FCUCC Annual Meeting

## January 21, 2024

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF ASHEVILLE



**FCUCC's mission is to:**

1. **Embody a forward-thinking, courageous, and diverse Christian community.**
2. **Follow the ways of Jesus the Christ as a grace-filled, spiritual congregation.**
3. **Practice affirming and radical hospitality.**
4. **Engage our local and global community with acts of love, mercy, peace, and justice.**

**FCUCC's vision is to be an embracing community, public sanctuary, and prophetic Christian voice.**

**Moderator: Chris Cain**

**Start Time: 12:15 PM**

**Location: Fellowship Hall**

**Note Taker: Kathleen Carter**

**Agenda:**

**Opening Remarks / Prayer – Chris Cain**

The meeting was called to order at 12:18.

55 persons attended: 47 in person and 8 online.

### **Establish a Quorum – Chris Cain**

Confirmed, we have a quorum.

### **Bylaws Review – Joanne Roudebush**

Revised Bylaws were approved by the Board then sent to members for review, along with an overview of the changes made. For example, the revised Bylaws: incorporate the previously approved Mission Statement; support attending meetings and voting by electronic means; add the positions of Secretary and of Clerk; and make Buildings and Grounds a standing committee of the Board.

Joanne presented a comparison of the duties of Secretary and Clerk.

(In response to question) The Secretary is a new position, but not an addition to the Board.

Motion to approve the revised bylaws was carried.

Note that many policies were also revised.

### **Board Elections – Chris Cain**

Ballots were distributed to members, to vote for two of three candidates: Eric Barbour, Mark Palinski, Cara Pollard. Online voting was supported as well.

Eric Lyons and Maggie Thomas exited to count the ballots.

(The results appear later in these minutes.)

### **Land Acknowledgement Statement Vote – Dorri Sherrill, Bev Reddick**

The Racial Justice Team provided a draft some months ago to the congregation. Many suggestions were received from members of the congregation. A revised draft has been approved by the Board and was included in today's order of service.

Lively discussion included comments:

The second part of the statement includes a global statement, apology – let's stay with the local, the Cherokee.

Not many know what the Doctrine of Discovery was: A papal decree that authorized Christian lands to claim whatever they found that wasn't Christian.

Not many will understand the use of the word Christendom, how what Jesus taught was converted from servanthood to imperialism.

The word that was removed from the earlier draft was a word in the Cherokee language that referred to all indigenous peoples as a group. It was removed because it was felt that borrowing someone else's language was inappropriate until we get further into community with our Cherokee neighbors and feel that we have their approval to use symbolic words.

Motion to stop the debate was approved.

Motion to adopt the policy as it stands was carried.

Note that the vote was not unanimous: three opposed.

### **Search Team – Frank Freeman**

We've received 57 applications. We are getting close. There's a tremendous amount of trust within the group, and we appreciate the trust you have in us. Please keep praying for us.

### **Results of the Board Elections**

Welcome to the Board, Eric Barbour and Cara Pollard.

Thank you to the Nominating Committee.

Thank you to those who ran.

### **2024 Proposed Budget / Vote – Joanne Roudebush**

Joanne presented the budget assumptions.

Motion to approve the budget was carried.

Joanne presented the Building Fund report.

Noreen Bania: Last year we replaced the HVAC in the upper wing. We would like to put a similar system in downstairs in the wing. It will be more expensive because we have to add to the electrical panel. The new system will use a heat pump, so will reduce our use of natural gas.

Motion to approve the expenditure was carried.

The meeting adjourned at 1:20.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathleen Carter