

Deansboro Congregational United Church of Christ  
Annual Meeting – April 26, 2009

The meeting was called to order during the service by Pastor Ed Townsend who thanked outgoing Moderator John McConnell for his service in this time of transition.

Lawrence Gilley suggested that we should approve each of the reports individually which was done as follows.

Report	Motion made by	Second	Status
Moderator	Lawrence Gilley	Janet Dangler	Passed
Deacons	Carol Gilley	Joyce Lloyd	Passed
Clerk	Mary Dickinson	Noreen	Passed

- Lawrence pointed out the omission of the minutes from last year's meeting which were read and included in the clerk's report.

Website	Lawrence Gilley	Mary Dickinson	Passed
Historian	Rick Lloyd	Marge Mudge	Passed
Trustees	Janet Dangler	Dorothy McConnell	Passed

- Lawrence expressed concern that the trustees are using compact fluorescent bulbs when replacing those burned out.

Women's Fellowship	Dorothy McConnell	Carol Gilley	Passed
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- Marge Mudge commented that the women's group works very hard for the church

Treasurer	Diane Brady	Dorothy McConnell	Passed*
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- Discussion included comments that there have been improvements in reporting during the year. There were questions regarding the Sunday school offerings and what expenses are included in other maintenance. Trustees explained that flowers in front of church, light in memorial window, light bulbs, etc. are included.
- Other maintenance in budget should be changed to read 'building and grounds maintenance'
- Major capitol improvements are to be addressed outside of the budget.
- On Net Worth statement the Endowment line went from \$8,500 to \$7,500. Where did the \$1,000 principal move to?
- It was agreed that council will take these items up with the treasurer at the next council meeting

\*Passed provided that council get the above items corrected.

Ed explained the decision by the council to undertake a one year experiment with a unicameral board due in part to the difficulty in finding people to serve in open positions. This board would include: four deacons, moderator, vice moderator, treasurer, clerk, representative from women's fellowship and a trustee. Anyone else would be welcome to

attend the meetings without vote.

A motion was made by John Ingraham and seconded by Diane Brady that we reduce the number of deacons to four and combine the meetings. Discussion included the following:

- Mary expressed concern about being gone for several months putting additional burden on the remaining deacons. It was explained that some of the burden would be handled by members of the congregation in addition to the deacons.
- Jane expressed concern that the meetings would be very long. Much of the deacons meeting is repeated in the council meeting and some now attend both meetings, so the overall meeting should last slightly over one hour.
- Question arose about the by-laws allowing for this change. The by-laws state how meetings should 'normally' be held. This an experiment and we can revert to the former configuration if it doesn't work out.

For moderator and vice moderator we have two choices which are to operate without these positions filled or elect people who step forward to fill them. No one stepped forward.

A motion that we elect the four current deacons was made by Marge Mudge, seconded by John McConnell and passed.

A motion that it is important to fill these positions as soon as possible was made by Lawrence Gilley, seconded by Carol Gilley and passed.

A motion that the council immediately appoint a nominating committee to find people to serve on council next year was made by Lawrence Gilley, seconded by Janet Dangler and passed.

Ed's observation is that we, like others, are in a time of transition with changes in addition to the normal decline of churches. If we continue to do what we've always done, we will continue as we are. He pointed out that there is a lot of life, energy and hope here. We need to put some things on the table that might be more in keeping with where we want to go.

- If people don't want to serve some aspect of our ministry, maybe we should let go of it.
- How can we change to bring the enthusiasm of the dinners to church or adapt to that aspect.

It is a great time to try doing some creative thinking, risk taking and step out in faith to try some new things.

The meeting concluded with prayer and the conclusion of the service

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Lou Rosecrants  
Clerk