

**147th Annual Meeting of
Plymouth Church, United Church of Christ
January 29, 2017 12:30 – 2:30 pm**

Moderator: Jon Palmason

Minutes: Kathleen Wilson

Parliamentarian: Richard Wilson

The Meeting was Called to Order at 12:43pm by Jon Palmason, Moderator, and a quorum was declared.

Prayer

Rev Kelle Brown

Opening Song

“There is a Balm in Gilead”
Jon Palmason and Jenny Kaiton

Approval of Minutes

Jon Palmason

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting for 2016 **passed**
The Minutes for Special Budget on 1/8/17 **passed**

Celebration of Church

Rev Kelle Brown, Rev Steve Davis

This year has been full of challenge and change, a real roller coaster ride, but we have endured and look to God for direction. We are a leading congregation, a cathedral for our denomination, and as such it is important for Plymouth to be transparent and healthy. We have so many gifts, the Music program, Habitat for Humanity, our nine o’clock service, and the partnership with Village of Hope. We are so grateful for the many individuals who have volunteered to participate and lead the church.

YF Trip to Atlanta

Anna Colwell, Katie Stultz

Our Mission trip in 2017 will be a civil rights pilgrimage to the American South. Thanks for the positive energy coming from the congregation and the Children and Youth Board. We watched the movie Selma as our first fundraiser and cleared \$1200⁰⁰. The trip is aimed at changing our lives. March 11 is our next fundraiser. Our financial goal is \$10,000⁰⁰.

Guatemala

Bob Turner

Background: For 25 years Plymouth Church UCC had a relationship with Nicaragua. Last February we joined with Habitat for Humanity to build outhouses and smokeless stoves in Guatemala. Families in the village made the mud bricks and cut the metal for these stoves which use less wood. Private outhouses were established around the village. Ken and Jeanette Hagen are leading another trip to a Guatemala beginning Feb 18, 2017.

Treasurer's Report

Doug James

Thanks to Steve Davis for jumping in on Stewardship, writing the budget, and compiling the information needed for the statement of revenue and expenses. Plymouth Church UCC ended 2016 in solid financial condition. Some categories of income or expense were higher or lower than the expected 2016 budget. Pages 20 through 22 of the Annual Report contain the specifics.

Endowment Report

Don Schlosser

As of 2016 the bulk of the funds comprising the Plymouth UCC Endowment are managed by Trillium Asset Management, a social-responsive, employee-owned investment company. Funds are invested in a mix of stocks and bonds. Over past first three quarters of 2016 our return on the fund was slightly lower than our bench mark. The Endowment contributed \$909,418 as a regular (5%) support of the church's operating budget. A further \$182,550 was withdrawn as a special supplemental drawdown. There are more details on page 19 of the Annual Report.

Administration Ministry Report

Rev Steve Davis

Thanks to Previous CBA, Wendy Blight, as well as Doug James and Dan Landes for their work on financial matters. Thanks to all of you for being willing to do Stewardship differently. We received 30 new members into our church this year.

Covenant for Healthy Relationships

Tracy Simpson

Many of us in the room helped create this covenant. It is a living document to make explicit effort to "Look with the loving eyes of God" and help us become "the Beloved Community".

MOTION: We affirm that this is our covenant for Healthy Relationships.

MOTION AFFIRMED

Nominations for 2017 Governance

Mike Pierson

MOTION: The Proposed Slate Officers, Council Members, and Board Members as detailed on pages 30 and 31 of the Annual Report was made and seconded.

MOTION CARRIES

Comments of Outgoing Moderator

Jon Palmason

This was a life changing experience for me. Things were challenging; we are passionate about our church. We are able to have strong and vibrant worship thanks to Kelle and Steve and are blessed by Wanda Griffiths as our Transitional Music Director and Organist. Attendance is up at both services. All Plymouth UCC staff see their job as a mission: Program, custodial, and office staff. I am grateful for your love and support.

Passing the Gavel to new Moderator

Jon Palmason & Al Wallace

Comments of Incoming Moderator

Al Wallace

I've learned that church matters in the last three years of being on the Church Congregational Council. We will work to improve our church communications, to create an Ombudsperson position (a point of access for complaints and appreciations), and move Council and Board meetings to Saturday mornings on a Bi-Monthly basis to improve plan making and communication. We are very blessed with our pastors. Our top priority is to amend the by-laws for the option of co-ministry and to call Kelle Brown and Steve Davis to be our clergy leadership.

Questions from the floor

Jon and Al

There are 4 openings on the nominating committee.

MOTION: Can we reconsider the nomination committee and who is on it? Discussion.

MOTION DID NOT CARRY.

Closing Hymn

Be Thou My Vision #451

Closing Prayer

Rev Steve Davis

Meeting was adjourned at 1:56 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Wilson