

Plymouth Church, United Church of Christ
1217 6th Ave
Seattle WA 98101
www.plymouthchurchseattle.org

CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING
Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2018 12:30 pm

AGENDA ITEMS: *Enumerated below, with brief summaries as relevant, and critical business items (including motions, denoted in blue) detailed in the minutes.*

- 1) Prayer**
 - a) At 12:38 pm, Rev. Kelle Brown opened the meeting with a prayer.
- 2) Opening Hymn**
- 3) Call to Order**
 - a) At 12:41 pm, Al Wallace, Council Moderator, called the meeting to order and declared a quorum for our meeting.
- 4) Litany of Covenant**
 - a) Several held up a banner stating our Covenant for Healthy Relationship at Plymouth Church. We honored J Wong for writing it out so beautifully, and Pastor Kelle read the covenant out loud with the congregation.
- 5) Approval of Minutes**
 - a) Bing Tso, Council Secretary, presented four sets of minutes (from the 2017 Annual Meeting, the two summer meetings to revise the by-laws and call Rev. Steven Davis and Rev. Kelle Brown as our ministers, and the recent 2018 budget approval meeting). A motion was made to accept all minutes together, which was seconded. Discussion ensued, with thanks expressed for providing the information. Bing and Steve then answered several questions about how they were organized. **The motion to accept the minutes passed unanimously.**
- 6) By-Law Amendment**
 - a) Al presented the context and language for the by-law change regarding making the music director a hired position, so that we can finally hire change Wanda Griffiths' status from a temporary to a permanent director.
 - b) A motion was made to amend *By-law 10.5 Music Director* to read as follows: *The music director shall be hired by and subject to dismissal by the supervising Minister.* **The motion to do so was seconded, and unanimously and enthusiastically passed.**
- 7) Celebration of Church**
 - a) Steve started with opening remarks about the positive trajectory we are on and how blessed he is has been to work together with Kelle this past year. Kelle reflected on the challenges of the past years, role of faith to get her and us through, and her gratitude for us for all we do as our

congregation. We are in a good place! Thank you for staying together and working together through the challenges. We are an incredible church, and they are honored to work with us. Steve acknowledged and thanked staff and lay leadership present at the meeting.

8) Priority Area Reports

Steve asked all present to read the various reports in the Annual Report booklet, which address the following areas:

- Recognition of Staff and Lay Leadership
- Faith Formation
- Worship and Music
- Community Care
- Mission and Social Justice
- Church Operations and Building
- New Initiatives

9) Treasurer's Report

- a) Dan Landes, Council Treasurer, acknowledged 2017 began as a challenging year, in which we started off with a \$49,000 deficit and uncertainty around staffing of financial responsibilities. But things worked out, and thanks to wise and steady spending control, Plymouth ended the year with a \$90,000 surplus.

10) Endowment Report

- a) No verbal report, but the Annual Meeting booklet contains details.

11) Nominations for Leadership

- a) Katherine Guthrie, Nominating Committee chair and Council member, gave a report highlighting the excellent folks who have served in 2017 and will be serving in 2018. She noted that there are several open positions remaining to fill this year.
- b) Steve pointed out some corrections: Elizabeth Maher has rotated off of CSSA. Carol Mooney will not be serving on CSSA.
- c) **A motion to accept this slate was made, seconded, and passed.**
- d) Bing pointed out that Plymouth's bank requested minutes listing not only motion the accepting slate of officers (covered within the Annual Report) but also specific wording from in these Council minutes.
- e) **A motion was made to formally elect Lori Kaid as moderator, Bing Tso as vice moderator, and Jane Dunkel as Treasurer of the Council of Plymouth Church UCC. They, as well as our ministers, Rev. Kelle Brown and Rev. Steven Davis, shall be s authorized to sign checks from our Commerce Bank account. This motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

12) Passing the Gavel

- a) Al reflected on his four years on Council, and his gratitude to Rev. Brigitta Remole for helping bring Steve and Kelle to us, and to start long-term visioning with the Center for Progressive Renewal. He urged us to continue to address the changing, growing downtown Seattle community, knowing that we are blessed to have a substantial endowment to support us. Think big!

13) Comments from Incoming Moderator

- a) Lori thanked Al for his service, honored the four outgoing Council members (Al Wallace, Kathleen Wilson, Dan Landes, and Doug James), and brought all new lay leadership up to the front of the room to highlight and celebrate their roles.

14) Questions from Congregation

- a) *Is there a trend, with the 9 and 11 services being in the same place, towards merging them?*
Kelle noted the ministers' long-term desire to get away from the "cafeteria" nature of church where individuals pick and choose — how do we worship together?
- b) Kelle led a prayer for Dan Landes and others who are grieving loss.

15) Closing Hymn

16) Closing Prayer

17) Lori adjourned the meeting at 1:27 pm.

Minutes submitted by Bing Tso, outgoing Council Secretary on January 28, 2018. Council members present at the meeting reviewed these prior to finalization for accuracy. Final approval will be take place at the 2019 Annual Meeting.