**Minutes of the 83rd OCC Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 23, 2022**

Fifty participants met via Zoom for the Annual Meeting. Moderator Kurt Sunderbruch called the meeting to order at 11:35 am. He mentioned the Annual Report wasn’t sent out prior to the meeting but will go out tomorrow.

The minutes of the 82nd Annual Meeting, January 31, 2021, were moved and approved.

**Stewardship Report:**  Per Bill Abriel, we met our stewardship goals for the coming year even while raising money for our Next 80 campaign. Pledges are 70% of our revenue so they’re very important. They’re used for operations and pastor/pastoral support. Bill acknowledged the contributions of the stewardship committee/pastor. He gave a special thanks to those who did stewardship testimonials about their connection to the church. He thanked everyone for their generosity. Kurt Sunderbruch thanked Bill for a job well done.

**Budget Review and Approval:** Lani Shepp reviewed the 2022 budget. As a result of the Next 80 campaign, we have banked about $400,000 to sustain our campus. We ended this year with a $48,000 surplus so we’re moving into 2022 in very good shape. The budget allows for 2.5% raises for Elizabeth Robinson and Anna Gregory. Anna is continuing at 25 hours/week. Elizabeth’s salary was adjusted upwards per UCC conference guidelines. We have money to pay for staff as Leslie O’Brien moves forward. Our income comes from pledges, rentals, endowment, and loose offerings. Extra loose offerings helped get us this surplus going into 2022. Bill Abriel mentioned we have an additional $16,000 on what’s shown as pledges now. That gets it up to $340,000.

In response to congregation questions on additional staffing: there is someone waiting to do childcare when we go back to in person services and we are looking into having two people due to the requirements of being a safe church. It isn’t a financial possibility right now to hire a part time associate pastor to help Elizabeth Robinson. Our concern is whether we can sustain paying an associate beyond 2022. We don’t want to hire and then have to let staff go. We’re looking at other possibilities including an intern. We’ve budgeted to pay for others to deliver eight sermons during the year. We’re contending with pledge income that is declining each year while salaries are increasing per UCC guidelines. Maybe by 2023 we’ll have the finances and future funding prospects to fund a part time associate pastor. The Council will continue to look at this staffing issue. It’s been a battle each year to balance the budget. Council is working closely with Elizabeth to juggle all these demands to support Elizabeth; the Council is very concerned about not overstretching Elizabeth. It’s looking at the best interests of the church. Everyone is welcome to send in their thoughts and suggestions on the budget for consideration. The 2022 budget was moved and approved unanimously.

Lani reminded everyone that Winter Nights will be onsite starting 1/31/22. We have all the volunteer needs covered. A big thank you to everyone for their help.

**Moderator’s Comments and Report:**  Kurt Sunderbruch reflected on Dick Long who headed the first church committee on which Kurt served. Kurt was impressed with

Dick’s leadership style; how he served OCC as a leader. It was never about him but about making sure he fulfilled the need. Kurt mentioned Isaac Newton’s quote, “If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulder of giants.” Kurt acknowledged the tremendous level of effort by many church members in working with him on a variety of projects over the past two years. All of these “giants” have helped him do his job as moderator and we’ve been able to remain a vibrant church community through all the challenges. As we go forward, Kurt indicated there’s always room to help; always room for more. Suggestions from congregation members included finding out the talents and expertise of our members so they can be called on, as needed, to help. Members are welcome to create church projects that interest them, following in the footsteps of Mary Volmer and Katrina Staten.

**Pastor’s Comments and Report:** Reverend Elizabeth Robinson thanked Kurt Sunderbruch for helping her find her feet during a series of crises. She welcomed Anne Barr, the next Council moderator. Elizabeth has never seen a church where people give in every possible way as this church does. We are remarkable in this. So much has happened here in our church but our community is resilient. We have something truly fine here. Meeting in person again this past year was truly exciting. It’s moving to Elizabeth to have the Covid Advisory Group looking out for the church and having people suggest what needs her attention. We may be isolating but we are still acting in a community and making a difference. She is so grateful to those who make suggestions and act on them to make our lives better. We have remarkable resources. Let’s keep improvising. Let the church be your playground; people can try things out.

We have some challenges. We love our children and we want to create support/education that’s important to them. Elizabeth will be contacting those with kids to find out what’s important to families. She has looked to PSR for an intern and is in a conversation on that, possibly for a summer intern. Zoom Fellowship Hour time is important so we may do more hours but not necessarily right after the Sunday service. Maybe during the week. It’s a hard time because lots of people have lost people. We may need a grief group. She’s also wondering how to best support older folks who are less mobile. Also, can we make committees to help Mary Volmer and others? Her overall message is confidence, joy, love, and belief in our resilience.

**Nomination and Election of Church Leaders:** Kurt Sunderbruch shared the list of officers. It was noted that a few names were erroneously left off the list which will be updated in the annual report. Anne Barr indicated the Council’s new vice moderator is Bill Abriel. We unanimously moved and approved the slate of officers.

**Installation of Church Leaders:**  Reverend Elizabeth Robinson installed and blessed the church leaders. Kurt Sunderbruch indicated he will pass the Council gavel on to Anne Barr, the new moderator. Anne thanked Kurt. She has arranged for him to receive some gifts to be delivered to him in thanks for all he’s done.

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 pm.

Kathleen Wiegand, Clerk