

United Church of Christ Congregational
Annual Congregation Meeting
January 28, 2024

Sixteen members present and nine were needed for a quorum.

Jenniffer Carrico called the meeting to order at 10:40 am. She began with an announcement of a luncheon for Jeremy and Katie on February 18, immediately following the worship service. Jenniffer and Lou will provide the entrée if others would volunteer salad, dessert and rolls.

A prayer for our meeting was offered by Jeremy.

Katie Bauer made a motion that we adopt today's agenda; passed unanimously. Voices of friends of the church will also be recognized.

A motion was made by Christi and seconded by Gail to approve the January 2023 Annual Congregation Meeting minutes and the November 2023 Annual Budget Meeting minutes. Both reports were approved by all.

There was no Pastor's Report.

Clerk's report was read with the following updates: two new members, Jeremy and Katie Bullen; one baptism, Luke Bullen; and one death, Dorothy Thielman.

Jenniffer, as moderator, highlighted many upgrades and changes that were made to our church. To name a few they were internet installation, hearing assistance in the sanctuary, bride's room relocated to the main level and furnished, new sanctuary curtains and hardware, brick planter near front door removed and a new bench in place, screen wall in Fellowship Hall removed, bulletin board moved to the narthex, the Idaho Servant Adventures and church members cleaned out unused items in the church basement, and a new railing is being installed in the balcony. So much more was done and she thanked everyone who spent hours on these projects.

To continue with the moderator's report, we continue to support Jeremy in his endeavor to become an ordained pastor in the UCC. November 1st we signed a Letter of Understanding with Jeremy Bullen to serve as our Designated Pastor through Oct. 31, 2024.

Donations from the church treasury and/or members went to the Wallace Food Bank, the Christian Aid Fund, the Blanket Fund, Bibles to Shoshone County jail, and the use of our basement to the Wallace Christmas Fund group. See the Annual Report 2024 for more details.

The Rev. Ben Crosby, treasurer, gave his report stating that the church is in a financially healthy place. However, this coming year we have taken on more responsibilities which will mean more dollars need to come into the treasury. Avista has said that utilities are projected to increase in 2024, with ramped up activity in our church, utility costs will increase and our Letter of Agreement with Jeremy for salary and health insurance are increased items. Many members have increased their pledges, but the concern is we see less overall financial participation. An increase of 20% in pledges would be a significant help. Our expenses have been consistent with no unusual expenditures.

Continuing with treasurer's report, we do not want to withdraw from the Trust Fund if possible. We have savings to use for awhile. If it should come to the point where the church would close, the existing funds remaining could be used for maintenance and upkeep of the building. If the building is sold, remaining funds go to the UCC Conference.

Ben once again indicated that the church needs to find a new Treasurer. The proposed Leadership Roster indicates a vacancy to emphasize that. He confirmed that he will continue as Treasurer until such time as a replacement is found, trained and elected.

The Leadership Roster looks like this for 2024: Jenniffer Carrico, continuing as Moderator; Lou Larson, elected as Clerk; Benjamin Crosby continuing as Treasurer until a replacement is found; Katie Bauer continuing as a member-at-large, Geoff O'Meara elected as a member-at-large and Christi Thielman continuing as a member-at-large. A motion was made and approved to adopt this roster.

The meeting was adjourned.

Approved by the Executive Board 04-14-2024