

United Church on the Green, New Haven, Connecticut
281st Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, June 23, 2024

1. Moderator, Abram Guerra, called the meeting to order 11:44 and opened with a prayer.
2. **Moderator's Reflection** - Abram said he hoped we all felt as positive moving into the next church year as he does.
3. Approval of Minutes of Annual Meeting June 25, 2023
Approval of Minutes of Congregational Meeting on October, 2023
Approval of Minutes of Special Congregational Meeting on April 28, 2024

Jean Blue made a motion to approve all of these minutes. This was seconded by Barbara Adams and the motion passed.

4. **Acceptance of 2023 Annual Report.** Roger Adams asked for a correction to page 21 of the Annual Report. "Faith Engagement and Fellowship" should be changed to "Faith Engagement and Ministry Team"

Also Kathryn Thomas asked for a correction on page 24 in the first paragraph. The sentence was unfinished. It should read "June warmly welcomed all who walked through our doors, whether a long-time attendee or a first-time visitor, and ensured whomever was reading scripture had the Bible, the Scripture and knew what was expected during the service.

Jean Blue made a motion to accept the Annual Report as corrected. This motion was seconded by Chris Maursky and this also passed.

5. Next was the **Treasurer's Report** for 2023-2024. This was presented by John Sawyer in Tim Bertaccini's absence. Our Pledge goal for this year was \$154,000 and we fell a bit short. Our goal for this next year is \$160,000.

6. **Approval of 2024-2025 Budget.** A correction was made to page 27 of the annual report. The increase in annual giving should be 3% not .03%. Roger Adams made a motion to accept the Annual Budget. This was seconded by Jo Buchanan and passed.

7. **Approval of the Nominating Slate.** Tom George moved to approve the slate and this motion was seconded by Sue Hartt.

Susan Rey brought to our attention that we need delegates for the Annual Meeting of the New England Conference in June of 2025. Coco LePere, Sue Hartt and Tom George volunteered to represent United Church at this meeting. This meeting will be virtual and not in person. Only 2 of the volunteers are able to vote but having a third as an alternate is a good idea.

8. **Pastor's Reflection** - Steven thanked us for a wonderful and glorious year. He thanked us for our support in moving the church forward into next year. We need to work together to define our place in this city. Because of Covid there was an interruption in our social, cultural, and political connections to New Haven. Stephen wants us to be a place where folks can come to live out their faith and reflect God's love into the community and world at large. The first part of this new commitment was the design of the new church logo. We need to continue to shine our light into New Haven and the world. Instead of mourning who is not in the pews we need to

embrace that we are enough to reflect God's love to the greater community. In addition to that he is committed to being a "decent preacher".

For the future Stephen hopes to:

Let the world know we are a place of hope and acceptance.

We are a place to help parents raise their children in love and kindness that they may be a beacon of God's love in the world.

We will continue to build networks of refuge and acceptance for all of God's children

9. Celebration of Outgoing Leaders - We are ever grateful for love, kindness and hard work of Al Forino, Kathryn Thomas, and Dennis Titley. They have moved on in life's journey but their love and spirits are with us always.

10. New Business

Dan Rausch celebrated our wonderful choir and music program at United.

Jean Blue offered a prayer of thanksgiving for the presence of Rev. Dr. Stephen Rey and Susan Rey among us. We are so happy to have them journeying with us.

Ruth Anne Olson mentioned the 5 for 5 program we used to have. This involved joining in groups of 5 to pursue a shared interest. Anything from knitting to dinner out.

Kathryn Thomas brought up the fact that we need more people on the MID committee as it is a vital part of the future of the church.

Joan Duffy wants folks from United to attend community happenings together to encourage more interest in the church. She mentioned programs at the New Haven Museum specifically.

Leslie French asked about brochures about United Church that we can bring with us to community events. Rev. Rey said that a new brochure is being developed and will be ready soon.

Coco LePere mentioned that maybe upcoming community events could be mentioned in the electronic newsletter so people could attend them.

Ben Gyadu wanted us to thank Dale Richard and George Lindsay for all their work every Sunday to provide wonderful coffee hours.

Julie Peterman encouraged everyone to submit a pledge for the upcoming budget year.

11. Adjournment - Roger Adams made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Jean Blue.

Abram offered a final prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 12:32.

Respectfully submitted,
Angelyn Singer

