

**Plainfield Congregational Church**  
**United Church of Christ**  
**Annual Congregational Meeting**  
**January 30 and February 13 Minutes**

On January 30, 2022 we had an informational meeting, reviewing the annual reports and budget, but held off voting until February 13 to allow members more time to review the items to be voted on – 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes, 2021 final financial report, 2022 budget, 2022 Church Council

January 30 – we did not have the required quorum of 24 Active Members.  
On February 13, including absentee ballots, we had 25 Active Members, so the quorum requirement was met.

January 30 minutes

February 13 minutes

- 21 Active members present.
- 4 absentee ballots submitted to the Moderator (Mark Gerth) from Active Members

Shawn Hillman gave the opening Prayer.

Mark and Shawn both thanked the 2021 Council members for their time, energy, and commitment to our church.

Moderator – Mark Gerth

Vice Moderator – Shawn Hillman

Financial Officer – Pat Herman

Recording Secretary – Ginny Noble

Apple Tree Board – Rhea Joy Simonich

Christian Education – Clara Hook

Community Connections – Dayan Hancock

Congregational Life – Linda Parker

Memorial Board – Elizabeth Ormes

Operations – Craig Theimer

Spiritual Life – Joan Caton

**2021 minutes**

A motion was made to approve by Sue Davis and Seconded by Madelyn Varley.

All approved.

### **2021 final Financial report**

This is not something we had previously approved at the Annual Meeting, but felt it was important to put a stamp of approval on it.

Mark Gerth gave a brief review of the proposed 2022 budget.

The key items noted were:

Lowered expected income based on 2021 giving and trying to be realistic and not overly optimistic.

Raises were included for the Office Manager (Sharon Kuzel) and the Custodian (JoAnn Kapsimalis).

The budget process went through everything else before considering the amount allotted for the Pastor. When everything else was set, the remaining budget for the Pastor was lower and by the information we have on salaries, likely allows for a pastor to serve at about half of full time.

### **Questions and discussions:**

**Linda Parker** asked if the budget can be adjusted if circumstances require it during the year.

Mark noted that the budget is an estimate of what will be spent and small changes do happen to what we actually spend during the year as needed.

Some changes are approved by the council.

**Elizabeth Ormes** noted that changes over \$1000 are brought to the congregation for approval.

**Janet Peters** asked what the WC/LI item under the Pastor's pay indicated.

No one present was certain, but we concluded it likely refers to Workers

Compensation/Liability Insurance. Jan noted that if we are unhappy with the amount we have to pay a pastor and the amount of time per week that will mean, we need to examine our individual giving and increase if possible.

Shawn Hillman noted that

A motion to approve the final financial report for 2021 and the 2022 budget as presented was made by Sue Davis and Seconded by Elizabeth Ormes.

All approved.

## 2022 Church Council

**Shawn Hillman** reviewed the proposed members and revised structure.

For 2022, Community Connections, Congregational Life, and Spiritual Life will be combined into a Connections Team. There is at times natural overlap and combined efforts between these teams. In recognition of this, to improve communication and work, and to better leverage the limited number of people able to serve on those teams, they will be combined for 2022. For Church Council meetings, it won't be necessary for someone from 3 different teams to be present. One person from the Connections team can report for all. Of course all members of the Connections team can attend Council meetings, but this will lesson the load when needed.

This is structural change is for 2022 and will be revisited to determine if it works well and may become a more permanent change.

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Moderator           | Shawn Hillman                             |
| Vice-Moderator      | Open                                      |
| Past moderator      | Mark Gerth                                |
| Recording Secretary | Lisa Breese                               |
| Financial Officer   | Pat Herman                                |
|                     |   |
| Apple Tree Board    | Rhea Joy Simonich                         |
| Christian Education | Clara Hook                                |
| Connections         | Linda Parker, Dayan Hancock               |
| Memorial Board      | Elizabeth Ormes                           |
| Youth member        | Open, revisit when there is more activity |
| Pastor              | Open                                      |

It was clarified that the Executive Council includes the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Recording Secretary, and Financial Officer. Executive Council meetings are called on an as needed bases, typically no more than once or twice during the year. They are called to discuss more sensitive items such as staffing items. In some cases, staff members will included in Executive Council meetings.

Vote to approve the 2022 Council

Moved by **Linda Parker**.. Seconded by **Sue Davis**.

Approved unanimously

**MINISTRY TEAMS**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><u>Apple Tree Preschool:</u><br/>         Rhea Joy Simonich<br/>         Madelyn Varley<br/>         Kendall McBeth</p>  | <p><u>Memorial Board:</u><br/>         Elizabeth Ormes<br/>         Bill Caton</p>  |
| <p><b><u>Christian Education:</u></b><br/>         Clara Hook ***<br/>         Lisa Breese<br/>         Stephanie Hancock</p>   | <p><u>Operations:</u><br/>         Craig Theimer***<br/>         Bob Mason<br/>         Steve Breese<br/>         Sue Davis<br/>         Ken Simonich<br/>         Coffee Monday mornings</p> |
| <p><b><u>Connections</u></b><br/>         (combining Community Connections,<br/>         Congregational Life and Spiritual Life)<br/>         Ginny Noble<br/>         Jan Peters<br/>         Pat Herman<br/>         Linda Parker</p> | <p><u>Generous Giving/Stewardship:</u><br/>         Sharon Kuzel<br/>         Elizabeth Ormes</p>   |
| <p><u>Delegate to UCC:</u></p>  |   |
|   |   |

**Open Forum**

**CLOSING PRAYER – Shawn Hillman**

**Adjourned at 11:50 am**

**Next Congregational Meeting: May 19, 2022**