

Central Board Meeting Minutes 4/19/2022

via Zoom 6:30 – 8:33 PM

Proof Notice: March meeting time was posted in April Spire and announced in church.

Attendees: Dale Earl, Rev. Lisa Stedman, Lauren Swiniuch, Andrea Trefry, Jack Terrill, David Brandt and Doug Marquart.

The meeting was Chaired by Dale Earl and notes were taken by Doug Marquart.

Opening Prayer by Rev Lisa.

Approved Central Board minutes from 4/25/2022 Regular CB meeting and 4/3/2022 Special Session. 4/3/2022 summary notes published.

Rev. Lisa - Status

- **Pastoral Care and Staff:** Wendy continues to reach out to individuals in need, as does Lisa. They are keeping up. Remember to include Judy Eramo in our prayers, as she continues in hospice care. Staff doing well. Met with a local woman sponsoring an Afghan refugee family.
- **Upcoming Worship plans** – Nancy & Charles coming up on their last 6 weeks with Second Church. Now that the Lenten season is over and we have celebrated Easter, Lisa will look ahead to the experimental services over the summer, with a few traditional services mixed in. Still thinking of a formal “Transition Service” in fall.

Amendments to SCC Bylaws – After discussion at a Forward Chat 2/15/22 and subsequent review at two Central Board meetings, the following four changes were agreed to put forward as recommended by the Central Board for adoption. At the May 22, 2022 Annual Meeting, a vote will be taken.

*****[suggested language is indented and shown in italics]*****

Article III – CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Section 3: Rights

Active members may vote at duly called business meetings of the congregation. A list of active members shall be maintained for purposes of voting and UCC reporting. The clerk of the church shall complete a census of members each year by March 15 to determine which members continue to maintain active status. Inactive members (see **Section 4b** of this article) do not have the right to vote at any church meeting.

Section 4: Termination

(a) By letter of withdrawal.

When a member wishes to leave the church, the clerk will provide a letter of transfer or withdrawal.

(b) By inactivity

Members whose addresses have long been unknown or who for a period of two years have neither communicated with the church nor contributed to its support may, with the concurrence of the pastor and Central Board, be transferred to the inactive list by the clerk of the church as part of the annual March census.

(c) By exclusion

If the Central Board determines that a person's behavior is endangering the safety and well-being of the church community, it may vote to terminate that person's membership and/or to bar that person from participating in worship and other church activities. The Central Board's decision shall be informed by a process of discernment led by the pastor in which the offender may speak on his/her own behalf. The Central Board may request the assistance of other church working teams as the case makes appropriate.

PROPOSED: Move the definition of Inactive Member from Section 4 to Section 3 because Inactive status does not mean termination of membership.

Section 3: Rights

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If the Central Board determines that a person's behavior is endangering the safety and well-being of the church community, it may vote to terminate that person's membership and/or to bar that person from participating in worship and other church activities. The Central Board's decision shall be informed by a process of discernment led by the pastor in which the offender may speak on his/her own behalf. The Central Board may request the assistance of other church working teams as the case makes appropriate.

Article VI – CONGREGATION

Section 3: Meetings for business

(a) Annual meeting

The congregation shall gather in an annual business meeting each year in May on a date specified by the moderator. Business transacted at the annual meeting shall include:

- Presentation of annual reports
- Election of officers (see **Article IX, Section 1**) and Central Board members (see **Article VII, Section 3**)
- Any other business as may be specified in the call

PROPOSED: Add a provision for changing the date of the annual meeting in an emergency - this allows the election of Central Board members to also be postponed but completed by the new annual meeting date.

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The congregation shall gather in an annual business meeting each year in May on a date specified by the moderator except in the case of an emergency or other extenuating circumstances as determined by the Central Board. Business transacted at the annual meeting shall include:

- *Presentation of annual reports*
- *Election of officers (see **Article IX, Section 1**) and Central Board members (see **Article VII, Section 3**)*
- *Any other business as may be specified in the call*

ARTICLE VI – CONGREGATION

Section 4: Powers reserved to the congregation

The active members of the congregation present and voting in a congregational business meeting shall be the only body with authority to:

- Call a pastor
- Sell, buy, mortgage, transfer, or in any way encumber the real property of the church
- Authorize major capital expenditures and significant structural changes to our buildings
- Approve (or amend) the annual goals recommended by the Central Board
- Authorize the annual budget that is the financial plan for carrying out those goals
- Authorize non-budgeted expenditures of \$10,000 or more
- Amend these bylaws
- Claim to convey a position, attitude or feeling of the church to the media. Statements to the media require approval of the exact wording by a three-fourths vote of the members assembled and voting in a duly called congregational meeting.
- Dissolve the church and determine how to dispose of its assets (see **Article XIII**).

PROPOSED: Add the word “settled” to first bullet to define the type of pastor voted on by the congregation; this will allow the Central Board to hire or call an Interim Pastor, Bridge Pastor, or Pulpit Supply.

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- *Sell, buy, mortgage, transfer, or in any way encumber the real property of the church*
- *Authorize major capital expenditures and significant structural changes to our buildings*
- *Approve (or amend) the annual goals recommended by the Central Board*
- *Authorize the annual budget that is the financial plan for carrying out those goals*
- *Authorize non-budgeted expenditures of \$10,000 or more*
- *Amend these bylaws*
- *Claim to convey a position, attitude or feeling of the church to the media. Statements to the media require approval of the exact wording by a three-fourths vote of the members assembled and voting in a duly called congregational meeting.*
- *Dissolve the church and determine how to dispose of its assets (see **Article XIII**).*

Article VII – CENTRAL BOARD

Section 2: Eligibility

Candidates for positions on the Central Board must be active members of the church. No two members of the same household may serve on the Central Board at the same time.

PROPOSED: Clarify the definition of eligibility.

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Candidates for positions on the Central Board must be active members of the church. No two members of the same household may serve on the Central Board at the same time.

Members of staff may not serve on the Central Board.

*****end of proposed By Law changes*****

Transition Planning - Discussed path forward after 4/10 Transitional Chat; will begin to look in more detail at the main options discussed – Legacy church, yoke/partner/part time pastor, split and redevelop building, sell building and consider new smaller building and location. Lisa will get Doug names of people at Salem Tabernacle to understand more of their journey; will look to NE Area minister Alex to see which other area churches might be going through a serious transition discussion and other options; No one has yet signed up for the **Transition Team**. Lisa hopes Andrea will stay on after her CB term expires, and Lisa has a couple in mind to ask. **Need to make another appeal for Congregation members to volunteer to be part of the Transition Team.**

- **May 15th Forward Chat** – CB members and others will give short debrief from SNE UCC Super Saturday sessions. Looking for short summaries of each and discussion/questions ahead of Annual Meeting.

Technology & proposal – Hands free microphones and some of new equipment approved last month have been deployed; Tim (tech consultant) reported most of the rest of the improved sound system equipment have been delivered, waiting for the last bit to install.

- **Mobile displays to improve flexibility** – David Brandt and Rev Lisa measured, and confirmed we can fit the 75 inch screens (2) and medium size carts, tucked into the transept aisles when not in use. They will request a quote for HDMI cabling and or wireless options **(for enabling the chapel and Lower Parish Hall?)**

Where are we with:.... pursue selling some of equipment purchased since the pandemic that will be displaced, since it will have value for other types of buildings, conference rooms etc to offset some of the costs.

Annual Meeting – agreed on 5/22 date, with no changes to voting process. Rev Lisa, Dale Earl and Mary Jane finalized the list of Active/Inactive members eligible. Will present the 4 proposed By-Law changes (see above), and provide a Transition Process status.

- Finance Team –

Finance Team – Rebalancing of Investment Portfolio is still on hold; approved taking funds for AV improvements from Vision 300 Fund, which included funds for Tech improvements at the church.

Evaluation of new coffee hour format – consensus that people appreciate the opportunity to visit in the entryway/narthex. Doug will take next Sunday, then we'll look to get volunteers. Agreed to use the Hospitality Funds from Rev Judy Brain as needed.

Choir leading plans for June 5th celebration of Nancy and Charles time leading Second Church's Music programs - more to come as we get closer to the date as we send them on their way to Italy!

Rev Lisa led the closing prayer at 8:58 pm.