

## Call to Annual Congregational Meeting (2023)

Congregational Church of West Medford UCC dba Sanctuary United Church of Christ

**ONSITE and ONLINE - Saturday, June 24, 2022 (9:00 am – 10:30 am)**

*Agenda Published: June 07, 2022*

The Officers and Leadership Circle of the Congregational Church of West Medford | Sanctuary UCC issue this call to the Annual Congregational Meeting of the Governing Body with the agenda as follows:

1. Receive: Annual Ministry Reports presented [electronically here](#)
2. Receive, Discuss, Vote to Approve: 2022-2023 Year-To-Date Draft Financial Reports.
3. Receive, Discuss, Vote to Approve: Leadership Circle/Committee of the Whole (LC/COW) recommendation for the 2023-2024 Mission and Ministry Plan to continue an "As Is" Sanctuary Mission and Ministry model with a supporting budget while we pursue a dynamic merger with Hillside Community Church (as recommended by the 2023 Discernment Process and approved by LC/COW at [2023.05.17 Special LC/COW Meeting](#));
4. Vote on LC Recommendation regarding [Sanctuary UCC Bylaws](#) to extend actions to:
  - i) Use a "Committee of the Whole" model for 2023-2024 to address the work of the Leadership Circle as defined in Bylaws Article V. Leadership Circle (Board);
  - ii) Suspend bylaw requirement for two standing committees for 2023/2024.
    - (1) Article VII. A. Circles and Service Team; and
    - (2) Article VII. C. Pastor Parish Relations Committee.
  - iii) Consider the viability of the current bylaws - as part of the dynamic merger.
5. Vote to elect "Committee of the Whole" as the Leadership Circle for 2023/2024.
6. Receive, Discuss, Vote to Approve: Proposed 07.01.2023—06.30.2024 Budget.
7. Vote to extend Lead Pastor Contract to June 30, 2025;
8. Consider other new business as brought forth by members of the congregation as per the bylaws.

## Minutes

### Present Members (In-person and Zoom): 20 participants

Wendy Miller Olapade, Joanna Begin, Tom Gerstenlauer, Christy Miller, Charlene Carle,,Erin Sennott, Paul Sennott, Terri Bracy,Aaron Olapade, Liz Douglass, Ginny Berthiaume, Fralene Curtis, Ray Santiago, Branween Cook,,Carvina Williams, Julia Roberts,,Paul Roberts,,Ben Jacques,,Becky Jacques,Drew Hill

**Moderator:** Christy Miller

**Note Taker:** Aaron Olapade

9:05am

- Christy opens the meeting with a welcome and motions for a members to make a motion to call to begin the meeting and begin deliberation
- Terri motions to begin, Fralene seconds that motion

- The vote is put forth and voting begins; there is no deliberation and all vote in favor of opening the meeting

9:15

- Rev. Wendy begins by asking the members to take 5 deep breaths in and out, then leads into a prayer to guide the discussion.

9:18

- Christy begins with line item 1, the annual report; this agenda item is not being deliberated during this meeting; presented as pe prctice to receive reports of the congegations mission and ministry.
- Christy begins with line item 2, vote to approve the 2023-2024 year to date financial report; asks Wendy to expand upon the report and explain certain sections of it: revenue, expenditures, asset allocation
  - Terri asks a question pertaining to the money expenditure, are the costs of the previous year a fair usage of our funds, more specifically are we allocating properly or can we better utilize the money
  - Wendy asks Note taker to make a note about the question of money expenditure; the use of money from the sale of the previous building being used towards the various ministries  
Sanctuary participates

9:28

- Christy asks for a motion to adopt the financial report
- Ben Jacques so move, and Branwen seconds
  - The vote is put forth and voting begins; there is no deliberation and all vote in favor
  - All 20 present members vote in favor

9:31

- Christy begins line item 3: Leadership Circle/Committee of the Whole (LC/COW) Recommendation for Mission and Ministry as per special LC/COW meeting on May 17
- 3 packages ;
  - 1 is to keep Sanctuary UCC as is, all aspects; cost and expedite staffing, etc.
  - 2 is to focus on what makes Sanctuary UCC great, the collaboration with Hillside, certain ministries, and what possible things we may lose
  - 3 is a dynamic merger with Hillside, the pain points, sustainable issues, substance and structure about a merger
- **The recommendation is for Option 3 - with intention to maintain the ‘AS IS’ plan: our current ministries including Rev. Wendys civic leadership, our partnership ministries with Hillside - while we pursue a dynamic merger**
- Aaron asks a question about package 2, the focusing on what makes Sanctuary UCC great
  - Wendy explains in more detail what that package would look like and the pros and cons
- Branwen asks a question about the space issue, the physical space of Sanctuary UCC

- Wendy explains the reason for maintaining the space for the ministries, such as gallery installations or the location benefits other ministries such as civil leadership in Medford
- Fralean asks a question, about staffing; does hillside have staff, do we merge staff?
  - Wendy explains that we already have mutual staff in Ray Santiago and Charmaine, Rev. Wendy and Rev. Tom are separate entities but act in many situations as a united front
- Fralean asks a question about the merger; is it sustainable if either pastor changes their current position about community outreach for example
  - Wendy responds with her opinion about the change in optics if one or both pastors were to change their respective roles to begin a merger acquisition
- Ray asks a questions about bylaws
  - Wendy responds that the bylaws being maintained may be possible, it would depend on what the partners at Hillside believe to be fair

9:52

- Christy asks for a motion to accept the 2023-2024 Ministry Plan
  - Joanna Begin moves to accept the motion, Ray Santiago seconds the motion
  - The vote is put forth and voting begins; there is no deliberation and all vote in favor
  - All 20 present members vote in favor

9:55

- Christy begins line item 4; Recommendation regarding [Sanctuary UCC Bylaws](#) to extend actions, Suspend bylaw requirement for two standing committees for 2023/2024.
- No deliberation is to be had on this line item unless a member raises questions
- No questions
- Christy motions to have some move this line item
  - Ben Jacques moves to accept the extension, Aaron Olapade seconds this motion
  - The vote is put forth and voting begins; there is no deliberation and all vote in favor
  - All members vote in favor of the extension

9:57

- Christy begins line item 5; receive and elect the the incoming leadership committee
- Wendy explains that only 1 new member is being elected as all the other members of the LC have been acting in their official capacities and are not up for a change in position
- Wendy motions for a member to move the slate
  - Branwen moves the slate, Erin Sennott seconds the slate
  - The vote is put forth and voting begins; there is no deliberation and all vote in favor
  - All members vote in favor of electing 1 new member

10:00

- Christy begins line item 6: accept or reject the Proposed 07.01.2023—06.30.2024 Budget.

- Wendy explains certain sections of the budget report to illustrate the trajectory of the church mission, cost of insurance, staffing benefits, legal fee allocation
- Branwen raises a question about attorney costs, do we have SNEUCC/denomination that could aid us in legal questions as opposed to searching out for a 3rd party
  - Wendy responds that we most definitely have relationships within the denomination, including our own present member; Paul Sennott
- Christy asks for a motion to approve the budget that has been approved by the committee
  - Ginny moves the budget, Branwen seconds
  - The vote is put forth and voting begins; there is no deliberation and all vote in favor

10:11

- Christy begins line item 7: Vote to extend Lead Pastor Contract to June 30, 2025
- Quick deliberation about the 'AS IS' trajectory of the contract
- Branwen raises a comment; it is standard operating procedure to maintain a shorter contract length
  - Wendy responds to clarify about the reasoning for the continued shorter contract lengths
- Christy asks for a motion to extend the Lead Pastor Contract through June 30, 2025
  - Ginny moves, Carvina Williams seconds
  - All but Rev. Wendy vote in favor, Rev Wendy abstains
  - 19 in favor, 1 abstention

10:19

- Christy begins line item 8: Consider other new business as brought forth by members of the congregation as per the bylaws.
- No new business at this time
- Christy asks for a motion to end the meeting
  - Joanna Begin moves, Tom Gerstenlauer seconds
  - The vote is put forth and voting begins; there is no deliberation and all vote in favor

10:22

- Tom Gerstenlauer closes the meeting with a gracious prayer to send the meeting members off.