

**Congregational and Corporate Meeting Minutes
Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago
2025**

- January 12, 2025 – Dissolution of Pastoral Relationship
- February 9, 2025 – 155th Annual Congregational Meeting
- May 18, 2025 – Recommendation from Pastor Nominating Committee
- August 17, 2025 – Manse Disposition Task Force Recommendation

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Congregation
The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago
January 12, 2025
Sanctuary - 12:15 pm**

A Meeting of the Congregation of the Fourth Presbyterian Church was convened by the Moderator, the Rev. Ken Hockenberry, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Chicago, at 12:15 p.m. on Sunday, January 12, 2025, in the sanctuary of the Fourth Presbyterian Church.

Rev. Hockenberry opened the meeting with prayer.

Declaration of Quorum and Purpose of the Meeting

Co-Clerk of Session, Allison Youngblood, confirmed a quorum and Rev. Hockenberry opened the meeting with prayer.

Rev. Hockenberry stated that the Session called the congregational meeting on December 20, 2024. The stated purpose of this meeting is to consider the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago and The Rev. Nanette Sawyer, to hear and act on a recommendation from Session that the congregation request the dissolution of the pastoral relationship with Reverend Nanette Sawyer as of January 12, 2025.

Our polity identifies the congregation as the body that calls a pastor, and in like manner the congregation may request a pastor's relationship with the congregation be dissolved.

Report from the Session and Motion

Co-Clerk Allison Youngblood, on behalf of the Session, **MOVED**, that the congregation of Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago request the Presbytery of Chicago to dissolve the pastoral relationship with the Reverend Nanette Sawyer as of January 12, 2025, with great appreciation for the gifts she has shared with us through her ministry among us over these past nine years.

Co-Clerk Youngblood further moved the following terms of her severance which, following our governance, have previously been agreed to by Rev. Sawyer, our Session, and Rev. Dr. Craig Howard, on behalf of Chicago Presbytery. Rev. Nanette Sawyer's severance includes nine months of salary plus benefits through the Board of Pensions. If Rev. Sawyer obtains employment of matching or greater compensation in that time, severance will end with that employment. If employment is obtained at a lower salary, Fourth Church will pay the difference until the end of the severance period. Other terms follow standard Presbytery guidance.

Co-Clerk Youngblood reviewed the factors that led to the proposed elimination of the Associate Pastor of Discipleship and Small Group Ministry, which included church census and a lower membership, the Long-Range Plan, the staff reorganization to align with the Long-Range Plan, and the Joint Finance Council, Board of Trustees and the Session determination to eliminate the deficit over the next three years.

Co-Clerk Youngblood discussed the care, serious consideration and deliberation of the Session to the recommendation.

Rev. Nanette Sawyer

Rev. Ken Hockenberry called on Rev. Nanette Sawyer to address the congregation. Rev. Sawyer offered gratitude to the congregation and staff for the call to Fourth Presbyterian Church over the last nine years. Rev. Sawyer stated that what the congregation chooses, she will accept the decision today, and trust that it is the will of God.

Rev. Nanette Sawyer left the sanctuary.

Deliberation and Vote on the Motion

Rev. Ken Hockenberry discussed the procedure for discussion and vote on the motion. After discussion and debate, the motion was **DEFEATED** by one vote.

Adjournment

With no further business, Rev. Ken Hockenberry asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Congregation. It was **MOVED and ADOPTED** to adjourn the meeting of the Congregation at 2:15 pm.

Rev. Tom Are closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Ken Hockenberry, Moderator

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Congregation
The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago
February 9, 2025 – 12:15 pm
Sanctuary**

The 155th Annual Meeting of the Congregation of the Fourth Presbyterian Church was convened by the Moderator, the Rev. Tom Are, at 12:15 p.m. on Sunday, February 09, 2025, in the sanctuary of the Fourth Presbyterian Church. Rev. Are confirmed that there was a quorum and opened the meeting with prayer.

Meeting of the Corporation and Approval of the Minutes

Board of Trustees President, Jeanne Griffin, called to order the meeting of the corporation of Fourth Presbyterian Church and requested approval of the minutes of the 154th annual meeting held on February 11, 2024, for both the congregational and corporate meeting. It was **MOVED, SECONDED and APPROVED.**

Treasurer's Report

President Jeanne Griffin called upon Treasurer Joe Sifferlen and the Co-Chairs of the Joint Finance Committee, Trustee Vern Broder and Elder Gary Graham, to provide a brief financial report.

Treasurer Joe Sifferlen reviewed the 2024 financial report which was distributed to the congregation. Treasurer Sifferlen reviewed the capital and operating expenses for 2024. Treasurer Sifferlen reviewed revenue, expenses, the draw and offered gratitude to the congregation for their generosity and financial support.

Treasurer Sifferlen introduced Trustee Vern Broders and Elder Gary Graham, Co-Chairs of the Joint Finance Council, to discuss the Church Financial Transformation Plan. Trustee Broders stated that, in concert with the Long-Range Plan, last year, the Joint Finance Council recommended a Financial Transformation Plan, which was approved by the Board of Trustees and Session. It is a three-year process plan to balance budgets, relying only on pledged and unpledged giving, program revenues and sustainable withdrawals from our invested funds. The goal of this initiative is to thoughtfully and faithfully examine our sources and uses of funds to balance our revenues with our expenses.

Trustee Vern Broders and Elder Gary Graham reviewed the 2025 budget process and the approval of the budget by the Board of Trustees and the Session. The 2025 budget was guided by the Financial Transformation Plan to move Fourth Presbyterian Church from a \$1.9M deficit at the end of 2023 to a \$0 deficit by the end of 2026. The deficit for 2025 budget is \$515,000. Trustee Vern Broders reviewed the changes to personnel and operations to meet the guidelines of the Financial Transformation Plan and the Long-Range Plan as presented in the 2025 budget.

Election of Officers

President Jeanne Griffin introduced Elder Rhonda Faulkner, Chair of the Nominating Committee. Elder Faulkner was invited to report on behalf of the Nominating Committee and placed in nomination the following nominees for the Board of Trustees:

Class of 2028

*Pamela Baker
Luke Beasley
Paul Boneham
John Clum*

*Gini Lloyd
Robin Moncrieff
Fred Schwartz*

Elder Faulkner asked for nominations from the floor. There being none, a motion to close the nominations and elect the present slate was **MOVED, SECONDED and APPROVED.**

Adjournment of the Corporate Meeting to the Congregational Meeting

There being no further business to come before the corporation, President Jeanne Griffin deferred to the Moderator to adjourn the corporate meeting and begin the congregational meeting. Rev. Tom Are asked for a motion to adjourn the corporate meeting and begin the congregational meeting. It was **MOVED, SECONDED and APPROVED.**

Approval of the Minutes

Rev. Tom Are announced that the minutes of the 154th Annual Meeting of the Congregation, held on February 11, 2024, were previously approved during the meeting of the corporation and called on the Co-Clerks of Session to offer their report.

Co-Clerks of Session Report

Co-Clerk Jared Light reviewed the period of transition and change that continues at Fourth Presbyterian Church as we look toward our future with the implementation of the Long-Range Plan and the challenge of a deficit in the budget. The Long-Range Plan will help us move forward to a world where people know they matter because through nurturing faith, we cling to the fact that God loves us, and we can build a community with our city, country and the world. The Long-Range plan was adopted for Fourth Church and there will work on it through our committees at Fourth Church, but it will be a shared responsibility for us all.

Co-Clerk Allison Youngblood reviewed the Long-Range Plan, which centers on four strategic directions: Faith Formation, Connection and Belonging, Community Engagement and Partnerships, and Sustainability. The plan honors our rich history and unites us as a community moving forward. Co-Clerk Youngblood reviewed highlights from the past year, including loving God through engaging worship with glorious music, leading dynamic faith formation programming for all ages, and hosting pilgrimages along the Camino Way in Portugal and the Civil Rights Trail. Loving one another through encouraging a sense of belonging by welcoming 91 new members and hosting Deep Listening Dinners and fellowship groups, ensuring everyone knows that they matter and are welcomed and included, supporting Chicago Lights and serving over 48,000 meals, which is a 19% increase over last year.

Co-Clerk Youngblood stated that the Long-Range Plan includes activities that are currently under-represented in our governance structure, which led to Session to charter three task forces:

1. The Strategic Communications Task Force – to identify resources and tools necessary to communicate and market how we are actively living into the Long-Range Plan. This includes exploring new and innovative ways to use digital channels and marketing, both internally with the congregation and externally with local, regional and national audiences.
2. The Online Church Family Task Force – to discover how e might deepen and expand our relationships with those who find and connect with Fourth Church online. This involves conducting a survey to understand online community values, exploring what other churches are doing, and building on our current activities and plans.
3. The Long-Range Progress Task Force – to ensure that Session and its committees implement the Long-Range Plan, progress is measured, successes are celebrated, and changes are recorded to keep the Long-Range Plan evolving.

Each Task Force began their work this fall and will be collaborating with each other, with the staff and with the committees. They will report their work to the session in June 2025.

Co-Clerk Youngblood asked the congregation to share responsibility and to continue offering their voice through the surveys that will be distributed. It is difficult to live into an inspirational plan while recognizing current limitations such as the results of the membership census, and societal changes. We will continue to work on sustainability as we update our organizational structure and address tough budget decisions. We can build on the strong foundation at Fourth Church and am confident that we can work together to embrace the goals of our Long-Range Plan.

Election of Officers

Elder Rhonda Faulkner reviewed the process for the Nominating Committee to select individuals for election of lay leaders as officers. Elder Giblin introduced the members of the Nominating Committee and reviewed the guidelines for officers.

On behalf of the Committee, she then moved the following candidates for election as Elders:

Class of 2028

*Cindy Block
Andrew Dust
Jan Feldman
Rachel Fisher
Mark Greenwood
Tom Hawkins
Daniel Miers*

*Randy Royer
Kim Ruhana
Rob Sinclair
Carl Traynor
Gretchen Van Natta
Kira Gallenbeck (Youth)
Laura Supinger (Youth)*

Elder Faulkner moved the election of the following candidates to the Board of Deacons:

Class of 2028

*Robert Acevedo
Pam Block
Craig Bomgaars
Clarisa Bonilla
Anna DeGroot
Sam Evans
Towanna Griggs
Kate Hall
Richard Knorr
Anoop Koshy*

*Margy Lafreniere
Frances (Frannie) Packard
Seth Reatherford
Andrew Shanahan
Katie Tkach
James Young
Eve Daniels (Youth)
Francesca Gustafson (Youth)*

For the Board of Deacons vacancies, the following candidates will be serving a 2-Year extension:

*Susan Boggie
Tim Schellhardt
Sally Sharp*

For the Board of Deacons vacancies, the following candidates will be serving a 1-year extension:

*Anita Balodis
Stacia Edwards
Craig Endicott
Susan Graham*

*Laura Lee Larson
Decima Panitch
Susan Wulczyn*

Elder Faulkner moved the election of the following candidates to represent the congregation as members-at-large of the 2025 Nominating Committee:

*Kathryn Burkhardt
Anthony Hipp
Christiane Knapp-Andrews
Rachel Letcher*

*Bill Patterson
Brian Satre
Katie Truesdell*

The Moderator asked for nominations from the floor Elder, Deacon or Nominating Committee. There being none, the motion to close the nominations and elect the candidates as Elders, Deacons, and Members at-large of the 2025 Nominating Committee was **MOVED, SECONDED and APPROVED**.

Rev. Are welcomed all candidates elected to their offices for the coming term and thanked Elder Faulkner and the members of the Nominating Committee for their work.

Chicago Lights Board

Rev. Tom Are welcomed Ms. Amanda Felt, President of the Chicago Lights Board to offer remarks. Ms. Felt thanked the congregation for supporting the Chicago Lights Social Service Center, Tutoring, Summer Day, and Urban Farm. Chicago Lights is built on relationships, and because of your partnership, thousands of children and young adults have brighter futures. Ms. Felt reviewed the work of the Chicago Lights Tutoring and Summer Day program and the Urban Farm.

Ms. Felt thanked the staff, volunteers and members of the Chicago Lights Board.

Report of the Personnel Council

Rev. Tom Are welcomed Trustee Patsy Habicht, Co-Chair of the Personnel Council, to present the Personnel Council report. Trustee Habicht reviewed the membership of the Personnel Council. Trustee Habicht reviewed the work of the Personnel Council, which is to serve as a resource for the Senior Pastor and Human Resources Department by advising and consulting on staffing needs, compensation philosophy and process, performance management, training and human resources policies and procedures.

Trustee Habicht, on behalf of the Personnel Council offered gratitude to all the staff, clergy, and volunteers who worked extraordinarily during 2024 to effectively adapt to all of the changes and to make for a smooth transition. Thank you to the congregation for all you do in our church community to move forward into the future together.

Pastor Nominating Committee

Co-Chairs of the Pastor Nominating Committee, Jeanne Bishop and Kerry Grady, provided an overview of the work of the Pastor Nominating Committee.

Report of the Interim Pastor

Rev. Tom Are stated that it is a privilege to serve you as the Interim Pastor and that the days ahead of us matter as much to God as the days behind us.

With no further business, Rev. Tom Are asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Congregation. A motion was **MOVED, SECONDED and APPROVED** to adjourn the corporate and congregational meetings at 1:15 p.m. with prayer and the singing of “The Church’s One Foundation.”

Respectfully submitted,

Jared Light

Allison Youngblood

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Congregation
The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago
May 18, 2025 - 12:15 pm
Sanctuary**

A Meeting of the Congregation of the Fourth Presbyterian Church was convened by the Moderator, the Rev. Tom Are, at 12:15 p.m. on Sunday, May 18, 2025, in the Sanctuary of the Fourth Presbyterian Church. Rev. Are opened the meeting with prayer and stated that purpose of the congregational meeting is to receive a report from the Pastor Nominating Committee.

Report from the Pastor Nominating Committee

Co-Chair Jeanne Bishop offered words of appreciation for the members of the Pastor Nominating Committee and reviewed the process of their discernment.

The members of the Pastor Nominating Committee include:

Liz Adams
Jeanne Bishop
Lloyd Culbertson
Beth Davis
Heather Gallenbeck
Kerry Grady
Elizabeth Hurley

Jared Light
Kash Morgan
Michael Mirza
Kent Stevens
Gretchen Wahl
Jessica Wang

Co-Clerk Kerry Grady discussed why the Pastor Nominating Committee believe that God has led us to Rev. Dr. Camille Cook Howe. Rev. Dr. Cook Howe is the Senior Pastor and Head of Staff at Georgetown Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C., where she has served since 2010. A native of Minnesota, she grew up in a family rooted in both Catholic and Presbyterian traditions. She earned her Bachelor of Arts with honors from Vanderbilt University, majoring in religious studies and psychology and competing on the university's rowing team. She pursued theological education at Princeton Theological Seminary, where she was awarded the Parish Pulpit Fellowship—one of the seminary's highest honors—as well as the Jagow Preaching Prize. The fellowship took her to study and serve in the United Kingdom, where she earned a Master of Theology in Applied Theology at Oxford University and began serving in congregational ministry abroad.

Rev. Dr. Cook Howe's pastoral experience spans three countries and a wide range of settings. She has served congregations in Oxford and London, England; Johannesburg, South Africa; New York City, and St. Paul, Minnesota. She served as Associate Pastor at St. Columba's Church of Scotland in London, where, due to unexpected circumstances, she found herself as Acting Pastor and Head of Staff at the age of twenty-six. From early on, Camille has been committed to bridging tradition and innovation, parish ministry and global engagement.

In 2015, Rev. Dr. Cook Howe completed her Doctor of Ministry degree at Wesley Theological Seminary. Her dissertation, "Waging War on One's Knees," explored the power of prayer as a leadership tool in the ministry of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., reflecting her long-standing interest in the intersection of personal faith and the common good.

Rev. Dr. Cook Howe's influence reaches beyond the local church. She is the chair-elect of the Board of Trustees of Princeton Theological Seminary, beginning in 2025. She also serves on the board of the Lewis Center for Church Leadership and was President of the Reformed Institute of Washington, D.C.

Within the Presbyterian Church (USA), she has contributed through national committees and is widely respected for her collaborative leadership and strategic insight.

A gifted communicator, Rev. Dr. Cook Howe is a sought-after preacher, teacher, and retreat leader. She has preached at Harvard's Memorial Church, Montreat Conference Center, Day1 Radio, and St. Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh. In 2015 she served as a guest chaplain to the U.S. Senate. She is a member of the Moveable Feast, a national cohort of prominent homileticsians who gather regularly for theological dialogue and preaching enrichment.

At the heart of her ministry is a deep love for the local church. She believes in the powerful impact of the institution of the church both on individual lives of faith and on the community it seeks to love and serve. She believes it is a huge honor and blessing to be a pastor and walk with people through baptisms, weddings, and funerals—the most joyful and painful moments of their lives.

Members of the Pastor Nominating Committee, Mr. Lloyd Culbertson and Ms. Gretchen Wahl offered remarks in support of Rev. Dr. Camille Cook Howe.

Remarks from the Candidate

Rev. Dr. Camille Cook Howe offered remarks on her call to Fourth Presbyterian Church stating that she has long admired Fourth Presbyterian church – from its historic role in shaping American Protestant life to its present-day witness as a bold, compassionate, and faithful community. Fourth Church holds a significant place in our denomination – not only because of its history and presence in Chicago, but also because its forward-thinking ministry that reflects God's light with clarity and conviction. To be considered for leadership among you is both humbling and deeply meaningful.

Rev. Dr. Camille Cook Howe was dismissed from the Sanctuary during discussion.

Terms of Call

Co-Chairs of the Personnel Committee, Mr. Mark Hurley and Ms. Patsy Habicht explained the terms of call for Rev. Dr. Camille Cook Howe.

Motion for Approval

Co-Chair of the Nominating Committee, Elder Kerry Grady to make the following motion:

On behalf of the Pastor Nominating Committee, we joyfully **MOVE** that we call Rev. Dr. Camille Cook Howe to serve as the next Senior Pastor of Fourth Presbyterian Church and we give thanks to God for leading this Pastor Nominating Committee to her. It was **SECONDED**.

Rev. Tom Are announced that the motion is **APPROVED**, and we welcome Rev. Dr. Camille Cook Howe as our Pastor at Fourth Presbyterian Church.

Rev. Dr. Camille Cook Howe returned to a standing ovation in the Sanctuary.

Dismissal of the Pastor Nominating Committee

Co-Clerk Allison Youngblood presented a motion to dissolve the Pastor Nominating Committee with deepest gratitude for their diligent and faithful service. It was **MOVED, SECONDED and APPROVED**.

Adjournment

With no further business, Rev. Tom Are asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Congregation. It was **MOVED, SECONDED and APPROVED** to adjourn the meeting of the Congregation at 1:15 pm.

Rev. Tom Are closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jared Light
Co-Clerk of Session

Allison Youngblood
Co-Clerk of Session

THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
August 17, 2025
11:15 a.m. Sanctuary and Online

A Meeting of the Congregation of the Fourth Presbyterian Church was convened by the Moderator, the Rev. Dr. Rocky Supinger, at 11:15 a.m. on Sunday, August 17, 2025, in the Sanctuary of the Fourth Presbyterian Church and online.

Rev. Dr. Supinger declared quorum and opened the meeting with prayer.

Declaration of Quorum and Purpose of the Meeting

Rev. Dr. Supinger stated that the Session called the congregational meeting with the stated purpose of this meeting is to act on a recommendation from the Manse Disposition Task Force that the Walton Avenue Manse be put up for sale and that the Manse Disposition Task Force be authorized to conduct and complete the sale.

Rev. Dr. Supinger stated that the Manse Disposition Task Force has been appointed by the Board of Trustees and the Trustees have the power to receive, hold, encumber, manage, and transfer property, real or personal for the congregation, provided that in buying selling and mortgaging real property, the Trustees shall act only after the approval of the congregation, granted the congregation granted approval during a duly constituted meeting.

Rev. Dr. Supinger stated that because of our relationship with the Presbyterian Church (USA), the property is held in trust for the denomination. The Book of Order states that a congregation shall not sell, mortgage, or otherwise encumber any of its real property without the written permission of the Presbytery, which is transmitted through the Session of the congregation.

Rev. Dr. Supinger called on Mr. Armon Haagen, Member of the Manse Disposition Task Force, to present the report and motion.

Report from the Manse Disposition Task Force

Mr. Armon Haagen stated that the Board of Trustees created the Manse Disposition Task Force (MDTF) to consider whether or not to retain the manse, located at 220 E Walton, Unit 8W, Chicago, Illinois. After multiple weeks of due diligence, the MDTF presented its findings to the Board of Trustees and to the Session. Upon hearing the findings, the Session called for a report from the MDTF to the congregation to hear two alternatives and to vote on the way forward. The MDTF considered selling the manse versus renting the manse.

The MDTF reviewed comparable sales transactions over the past 18 months for similar properties, condos, and vintage properties. They focused on three bedrooms in the Gold Coast submarket, which ranged from 3000 to 4000 square feet, which resulted in a potential market sale of \$900,000 to \$1.2M.

The rental market for similar properties suggested a market rental rate of \$6500 to \$8500 per month. Renting the manse would include additional landlord expenses such as real estate taxes, utilities, insurance, homeowner association fees, reserve fees, etc. Today, those expenses are approximately \$3,500 a month. Taking these fees into consideration, net revenue with an estimated monthly rental rate of \$6500 would be \$1,218 or for \$8,500 monthly rental rate, it would be \$2,968. Mr. Haagen stated that the Manse is a vintage building and will have unknown continuing maintenance and special assessment fees.

Based on this consideration, the MDTF determined that maintaining the Manse for investment purposes or for potential use by a future pastor was not prudent. Therefore, the recommendation to the Board of Trustees and Session was to proceed with selling the Manse. An independent appraisal was commissioned, which concluded the fair market value for the Manse would be \$1,025,000.

The MDTF sent out a call for broker presentations, which yielded ten inquiries. Three brokers were selected for direct interviews by the MDTF and upon unanimous decision, Baird and Warner was selected.

Mr. Haagen stated that the Manse was vacated on July 1, 2025, and since that time, minor property repairs and sales preparations were completed. If the sale of the Manse is approved by the congregation, the MDTF will execute proposals for staging the vacant unit and will execute an agreement with Baird and Warner. The expenses for selling will include brokerage fees, seller transfer taxes, seller title insurance, legal and other miscellaneous expenses, and tax proration. These expenses are currently estimated at \$75,000.

Mr. Armon Haagen, on behalf of the Manse Disposition Task Force and with the approval of the Board of Trustees, **MOVED** that the Congregation of Fourth Presbyterian Church place the Manse, located at 220 East Walton, Unit 8W, Chicago, Illinois, on the market. Further, that the Congregation of Fourth Presbyterian Church authorize the Manse Disposition Task Force to complete the sale of the Manse.

Deliberation and Vote on the Motion

Rev. Dr. Rocky Supinger discussed the procedure for discussion and vote on the motion.

Mr. Ranjan Daniels asked about the placement of the proceeds for the sale of the Manse and if it is designated. Rev. Dr. Supinger stated that the motion does not include a recommendation for the proceeds from the sale. The Finance Committee will make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees with final approval by the Session.

After discussion, the motion was **APPROVED**.

Adjournment

With no further business, Rev. Dr. Rocky Supinger asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Congregation. It was **MOVED, SECONDED and APPROVED**, to adjourn the meeting of the Congregation at 11:25 am.

Rev. Dr. Rocky Supinger closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jared Light, Co-Clerk of Session

Allison Youngblood, Co-Clerk of Session