

**134TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION AND CORPORATION
OF FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
February 8, 2004**

The 134th Meeting of the Congregation of the Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago was convened by the Moderator, Dr. John M. Buchanan, at 12:15 p.m. on Sunday, February 8, 2004 in the sanctuary of the Fourth Presbyterian Church. The Reverend Dana Ferguson opened the meeting with prayer.

Report of the Clerk of Session

Clyde O. Bowles, Jr., Clerk of Session, determined that a quorum was present to begin the Meeting of the Congregation.

Mr. Bowles announced that the minutes of the 133rd Annual Meeting of the Congregation, February 9, 2003, and the Special Meeting of the Congregation on June 23, 2003, were available for review in several locations throughout the church and in the church office. A motion was made, seconded, and **adopted** to approve the minutes of the 133rd Annual Meeting of the Congregation held on February 9, 2003 and the Special Meeting of the Congregation on June 23, 2003.

Mr. Bowles called on Elinor Hite, chair of the Personnel Committee to make the committee's annual report.

Ms. Hite reported that the Personnel Committee has recently completed the annual performance review process and implemented appropriate salary review increases. The review process continues to reveal what a strong and capable staff Fourth Church employs.

The Moderator called on Dianne Bowman, chair of the Nominating Committee, to give the committee's report.

Nominating Committee Report

Chair, Dianne Bowman, thanked the members of the committee for their service: Vern Broders, Beth Davis, Ryan Gregory, Mary Schaafsma, Beverly Washington, Alison Youngblood, Betsy Finkelmeier (Board of Trustees), Janet Reed (Board of Deacons), and John Dallas and Dianne Bowman (Session).

Ms. Bowman presented the following candidates for election as Elders:

Class of 2007

Elizabeth Andrews (youth)
Jeanne Bishop
Gerald Boomer
David Crawford
Elizabeth Foster
Kerry Grady
Jane Hunt

Betty Hutchison
Jerry Latherow
Gunnbjorg Lavoll
Mark Nelson
Sylvia Robertson
Richard Sabol

Class of 2006

Marc Miller (to fill an unfinished term)

The Moderator asked for nominations from the floor. There being none, a motion was made, seconded, and **adopted** to elect the candidates as Elders. Mr. Buchanan welcomed the newly elected members of Session.

Ms. Bowman presented the slate of candidates for election to the Board of Deacons:

Class of 2007

Lisa Armstrong
Gayle Birdsong
J. Milton Clark
Gregg Colburn
Louis DiCerbo
Don DuPree
Carol Gates
Joe Hornberger

J. Alan Hubbell
Beverly Kowatch
Donna Jean Marxhausen
Doug Pond
Kari Sinclair
Mary Kay Wysham
Kim Yaung

Class of 2005

Lindsay Cook (youth)
Tate Nundo (youth)

The Moderator asked for nominations from the floor. There being none a motion was made, seconded, and **adopted** to elect the candidates to the Board of Deacons. Mr. Buchanan welcomed and congratulated the newly elected members of the Board of Deacons.

Ms. Bowman presented the following candidates to represent the congregation as Members-At-Large of the 2004 nominating committee:

Gordon Addington
Steve Bumpus
Benjamin Carlisle
Bonnie Clyde

June Dorn
Allison Gerlack
Susan M. Hill

Mr. Buchanan asked for nominations from the floor for the nominating committee. There being none, a motion was made, seconded and **adopted** to elect the Members-At-Large.

Mr. Buchanan asked for a motion to recess the Congregational Meeting. A motion was made, seconded, and **adopted**.

Meeting of the Corporation

Lloyd Fry, president of the Board of Trustees and the Corporation, called the meeting of the corporation to order.

A motion was made, seconded, and **adopted** to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Corporation, on February 9, 2003 and the special meeting held on June 23, 2003.

Mr. Fry called on Mary Moore, Church Treasurer, for her report.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Moore reviewed the financial reports distributed to the Congregation, including 2004 budget and unaudited reports for 2003. The reports also include receipts and disbursements for Partners in Education. Ms. Moore made a motion that the treasurer's report be approved by the corporation. The motion was seconded and **adopted**.

Nominating Committee Report

Dianne Bowman, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the following candidates for election to the Board of Trustees:

Class of 2007

Marilyn Cason
David Eldersveld
Bryan Erler
Paul Gignilliat

Patricia Habicht
Clarence Johnson
Steve Philip

Mr. Fry asked for nominations from the floor. There being none, a motion to close the nominations and elect the present slate was made, seconded and **adopted**.

Mr. Fry asked for a motion to adjourn the Corporation meeting and reconvene the Congregation Meeting. A motion was made, seconded, and **adopted**.

The meeting of the corporation was adjourned. John Buchanan reconvened the Congregational Meeting.

Pastor's Report

"I am more grateful than ever for this Church, its strengths and faithfulness in this unique time and for all of its members. At a time when people have been writing off the mainline churches which continue to decline in membership, Fourth Presbyterian Church remains uniquely a symbol of strength and hope, a traditional mainline church where the ministers still wear robes and clerical collars, a pipe organ calls people to praise and worship, a choir sings the most elegant music the Christian Church has ever produced and, weekly, 2000 to 3000 people gather to do the most extraordinary thing — worship God. In the process they sit relatively quietly and attentively as a minister stands in a high pulpit and talks to them. And then, wonder of wonders, those same people join their faith, hope, love, and resources and go to work in the world, putting what happens in that hour of worship on Sunday to work in the name of their Lord. The Kingdom of God is always emerging out there in the world and it is our privilege and responsibility to be part of it, to announce its presence and to act like its citizens. And so because of the people of the church, the hungry are fed, the fearful are comforted, the naked clothed, and the children taught, the anxious encouraged. What an amazing phenomenon this church is, sitting here so elegantly and faithfully yet growing today in every way — numerically,

financially, educationally and in terms of its outreach to the world. And what a privilege for me to continue to be a part of it. I am more grateful than I can say, for my colleagues, with whom it is my profound joy to share my ministry, Judi Simon my competent and dependable Administrative Assistant, the clergy and the Program Staff who, best of all, are my treasured friends, the House and Support Staff and all the lay leaders who give so generously their time and skills. I could not be more grateful.

As you may know I did not anticipate my current status as your pastor, no longer co-pastor. I continue to believe that the concept of a co-pastorate is a good one, innovative and sound and a potential model for the whole church of shared leadership, in addition to addressing the critical matter of leadership transition in the church in a new way. We have learned a lot and have grown in many ways, but we could not and did not anticipate the toll that it would take on my colleague Joanna Adams. Two years after accepting the position she decided to end the relationship. She is as disappointed as I am and you are. And now, she and I and you must move on and have already begun to do so. I have recommitted myself to be your pastor, with new gratitude, hope and new energy. John Cairns is now serving as acting Executive Associate Pastor and is responsible for day-to-day administrative matters. I will continue to preach at a slightly increased frequency from the co-pastor model with colleagues and guests helping out. And I will continue to give leadership to the Christian Century and the McCormick Theological Seminary, where I have accepted responsibility as president of the Board of Trustees. I will try to limit my outside speaking engagements, although I do need to fulfill commitments I have already made. I will continue to rely on the personnel committee for assistance in addressing the matter of future transition. I will devote myself to the wonderful transition that is taking shape in this congregation — Project Light.

We have made enormous progress in realizing the vision of Project Light. In June 2003, we decided to focus on two primary tasks, a capital campaign and the potential sale of the church's air rights. While we are making progress on both, we still have work to do on each. The Capital Campaign ended its first phase on December 7th. During the first phase of the campaign this congregation did something remarkable — raised nearly \$17 million in Capital Campaign pledges. This is a significant and amazing feat. We have nearly doubled the amount this congregation has raised in prior capital campaigns and we all owe deep gratitude to all those who are involved in this wonderful effort. The Capital Campaign team is still in place and is now launching phase two. The church continues to receive bequests for the campaign and we will continue to contact all of our members.

At the same time, a negotiating team has been working steadily to develop a proposal for the sale of the church's air rights. That proposal will come to the congregation for a vote when it is completed. You may have read in the newspaper that the sale has already been completed. Let me assure you it has not and will not without your approval. The process leading up to the proposal has many steps. The Project Light Leadership Team has selected a development partner and the development team is now working with our partner to develop our proposal. Design guidelines have been established which will help the architects to design facilities to meet the long-term needs of the church, maintain the beauty of our church facilities and listen to and address the concerns of our neighbors. Last week the Session and the Board of Trustees met to

look over the proposal in its current condition and unanimous approval was given to continue working to prepare a proposal to bring to the congregation.

Each year, at the annual meeting, I say something to the effect that it is the greatest blessing in the world to be paid to do what you love to do and would do for nothing. I thank you again for that blessing.”

The Moderator asked for any comments, questions, unfinished or new business. There being none, a motion was made, seconded, and **adopted** to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by The Reverend John Cairns.



The Rev. John M. Buchanan, Moderator



Clyde O. Bowles, Jr., Clerk of Session