

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Congregation
The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago
February 14, 2016**

The 146th Annual Meeting of the Congregation of the Fourth Presbyterian Church was convened by the Moderator, the Rev. Shannon Kershner, at 12:15 p.m. on Sunday, February 14, 2016 in the sanctuary of the Fourth Presbyterian Church. Rev. Kershner opened the meeting with prayer.

Report of the Clerk of Session and Approval of the Minutes

Elder Andy McGaan, Clerk of Session, determined that a quorum was present. Mr. McGaan announced that the minutes of the 145th Annual Meeting of the Congregation, held on February 8, 2015, were available for review on the website or by calling the Pastor's Office. A motion was made, seconded and **adopted** to approve the minutes of the 145th Annual Congregational Meeting of the Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago.

Mr. McGaan remarked on the process of hiring Rev. Shannon Kershner and the transition that is underway as new life is being breathed into our mission and our worship here. Mr. McGaan remarked on the staff departures including Rev. John Vest and Rev. Joyce Shin as well as arrivals including welcoming Rev. Jeff Doane, Rev. Matt Helms, Rev. Nanette Sawyer and Rev. Rocky Supinger. This past year has celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Chicago Lights Tutoring Program and the Center for Life and Learning. The Andrew Pipe Organ has been installed over the past year and nearly complete. Mr. McGaan discussed the work of the Session and the focus on faith formation and discipleship including the numerous opportunities for investment and volunteer work in the various programs of Fourth Presbyterian Church.

Report of the Pastor

Rev. Shannon Kershner reviewed the past year which included a deepening of her call to Fourth Presbyterian Church. The Session, the spiritual leaders of the congregation, has been purposefully listening for God's call on us. A session retreat last June focused on the core values of the congregation including a few examples such as continuing emphasis to practice what we preach through our work with social justice; a desire to live as a diverse community; strong worship that nourishes us and challenges us and focus on being a church where everyone is welcome from the youngest to the oldest. Another emergence was the strengthening of discipleship, which led the Session Coordinating Council to develop the following Strategic Priority Statement 2016-2017 (not a strategic plan) approved by Session and to which we aspire:

Fourth Presbyterian Church exudes a culture of discipleship in which we can, we do, and we will exude Christ's love in every aspect of our life.

We Can – We are **equipped** to express Christ's love.

We Do – We are **engaged** in expressing Christ's love

We Will – We are **committed** to expressing Christ's love.

Rev. Kershner discussed the need to dive more intentionally into our discipleship and our own faith formation. In order to move into the next season of life with electric energy and vulnerable openness to the Spirit leading us, we need to think about how we can become more engaged in the mission and ministry of the church community through the contribution of our money, time, energy and imagination.

Rev. Kershner introduced and called on Elder Elaine Filus, Chair of the Nominating Committee, to present the committee's report.

Nominating Committee Report

Elder Filus reviewed the process for the Nominating Committee to select individuals for election as lay leaders in positions of leadership. The Nominating Committee reviews gender, age, diversity, membership length and which worship service attended as well as other factors to find individuals who are committed to the work of God, the Church and who are already in service to the community. Ms. Filus thanked her Nominating Committee for their hard work and perseverance.

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

Class of 2019

*Pam Block
Kathryn Burkhardt
Abbee Fassnacht
Alison Gerlach Blaser
Jim Kulich
Laura Liu
Holly O'Mara*

*Tom Payne
Fred Schwartz
John Stracks
Michael Tax
Russell Vilt
Sarah Force (Youth)*

The Moderator asked for nominations from the floor. There being none, the motion to close the nominations and elect the candidates as Elders was **adopted**.

Ms. Filus moved the election of the following candidates to the Board of Deacons:

Class of 2019

*Doug Andrews
Lynn Driver
Dr. Nyambi Ebie
Curtis Evans
Rachel Fisher
Renee Golas
Jim Kendzel
Laura Lewandowski
Craig Morrison*

*Joni Payne
Brian Satre
Nicole Spirgen
Devlin Su
Emma Vis
Cornell Wilson
Toni Yang
Owen Meyer (Youth)
Hunter Morgan (Youth)*

The Moderator asked for nominations from the floor. There being none, the motion to close the nominations and elect the candidates as members of the Board of Deacons was **adopted**.

Ms. Filus moved the election of the following candidates to represent the congregation as members-at-large of the 2016 Nominating Committee:

*Polly Peters Bottrell
Sam Evans
Nicholette Andrews Maggio
Maggie McGuire*

*Brad Pierce
Arlene Raine
Larry Thomas*

The Moderator asked for nominations from the floor. There being none, the motion to close the nominations and elect the candidates as members-at-large of the 2016 Nominating Committee was **adopted**.

Rev. Kershner welcomed all candidates elected to their offices for the coming term and thanked Ms. Filus, the members of the Nominating Committee for their work.

Recognition of the Chicago Lights Board

The Moderator called on Elder John Borovicka, Chair of the Chicago Lights Board, who reviewed the various programs and the success stories over the past year that are committed to mission outreach and serving our brothers and sisters in need. These programs include the Tutoring program, the Summer Day program, the Urban Farm, Farm Camp, the Free Write Jail Arts and Literacy Program (now becoming its own 501(c)3), Elam Davies Social Service Center and Chicago Lights Dance Academy (formerly CLASS). Elder Borovicka reviewed the various efforts to raise funds and increase awareness in the community, including the work of the Chicago Lights Associate Board, the Chicago Marathon team, Spotlight Luncheon and the Gala of Hope.

The Moderator asked for a motion to recess the Meeting of the Congregation to convene a meeting of the Corporation. A motion was made, seconded, and **approved** to do so.

The Moderator introduced Juli Crabtree, President of the Board of Trustees.

Meeting of the Corporation

Ms. Juli Crabtree, President the Board of Trustees, convened the meeting of the Corporation. A motion to approve the minutes of the annual meeting of the corporation held on February 8, 2015 was made, seconded, and **approved**.

Church Treasurer Marilee Hopkins reviewed the 2015 financial report and the Capital Projects Financial Summary, which were distributed to the congregation. Ms. Hopkins reviewed the various types of revenue, fulfillment rate for pledges and current restricted and unrestricted investments. Ms. Hopkins reviewed the policy for unrestricted funds which are deposited into the investment account with the income from the investments used for the spending formula, currently budgeted at 5.25%. With a lower pledge fulfillment rate in 2015 (92.5%), the officers approved spending 5.6% from the investment funds. Ms. Hopkins encouraged those individuals who pledge and are unable to fulfill their pledge to confidentially reach out to a Pastor as we are here to support each other as a community and not the bottom line. Ms. Hopkins reviewed the expenses, which were on budget at a one percent increase over 2014. With cost control and the inclusion of the costs associated with Gratz Center, the Pastors and Directors were able to reach out to more people than ever before through programs such as meals ministry, Stephen Ministry, Chicago Life and Learning and Adult Education and Deacons Intercessory Prayer. Ms. Hopkins reviewed the mission donations.

Ms. Hopkins pointed out that donor donations are directly used for employee wages and programs expenses and the spending formula from investments are used for facilities costs. We are standing on the shoulders of those who came before us.

Ms. Hopkins reviewed the financial status for Chicago Lights, including the revenue, which increased over 2014. Excluding the benefit and corporate giving, donations for Chicago Lights almost tripled. Ms. Hopkins reviewed the consolidated report for Fourth Presbyterian Church and Chicago Lights, including project to date update on the costs associated with the organ building project.

The 2016 budget was reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees and Session at their most recent meeting.

Ms. Crabtree thanked Ms. Hopkins for her volunteer work as Church Treasurer. Ms. Crabtree introduced Ms. Elaine Filus, Chair of the Nominating Committee.

Ms. Filus was invited to report on behalf of the Nominating Committee and placed in nomination the following persons for the Board of Trustees:

Class of 2019

Geoff Anderson
Marilyn Cason
Cara Crosby
Paul Gignilliat

Don Horvath
Tanya Martin
John Shonkwiler

Ms. Crabtree asked for nominations from the floor. There being none, a motion to close the nominations and elect the present slate was **approved**.

With no further business, Ms. Crabtree asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Corporation and reconvene the meeting of the Congregation. A motion was made, seconded, and **approved** to do so. The meeting of the Corporation was adjourned.

The Moderator reconvened the meeting of the Congregation of Fourth Presbyterian Church, and called on Elder Marc Miller for a report from the Personnel Committee.

Report of the Personnel Committee

Elder Marc Miller, Chair of the Personnel Committee, thanked his committee for the work over the past year. Fourth Presbyterian Church currently has 155 full and part-time staff members who work to develop, nurture and direct all aspects of our worship and mission outreach life. Mr. Miller, on behalf of the Personnel Committee, thanked Rev. Shannon Kershner for her leadership over the last two years and her engagement and witness to faith and community. The Personnel Committee undertook a number of activities during the year, with the primary one

being leading the midyear and annual review process. As Session looks at future priorities, the Personnel Committee will make sure the Pastoral staff is aligned properly, the staff supports the key priority of discipleship and that we continue to focus on the important initiatives of adult education and leadership development.

Mr. Miller recognized the staff members who reached a milestone of service at Fourth Presbyterian Church.

There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded and **adopted** to adjourn the meeting, which was closed at 1:15 p.m. with the singing of “God of Grace and God of Glory” and with prayer by Rev. Kershner.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew McGaan, Clerk of Session
Shannon J. Kershner, Moderator