

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Congregation  
The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago  
February 9, 2020**

The 150<sup>th</sup> 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 9, 2020 in the sanctuary of the Fourth Presbyterian Church. Rev. Kershner opened the meeting with prayer.

**Clerk of Session**

Andrew McGaan, Clerk of Session offered remarks with the agenda for the meeting. Clerk McGaan discussed the energy of Fourth Presbyterian Church in the gospel of Jesus Christ and offered the many ways this is presented. Clerk McGaan reviewed the work of the engaged and energetic Session with the approval of five strategic directions reflecting optimism, commitment and challenges for the congregation. Clerk McGaan thanked the clergy staff for their commitment and compassion within the congregation. The congregation is poised to do great things in the coming years all in the name of Christ.

**Approval of the Minutes**

Clerk Andrew McGaan determined that a quorum was present. Clerk McGaan announced that the minutes of the 149<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Congregation, held on February 10, 2019, 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 149<sup>th</sup> Annual Congregational Meeting of the Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago.

**Report of the Pastor**

Rev. Shannon Kershner welcomed everyone to the 150<sup>th</sup> meeting of the congregation with celebration next year of our 150<sup>th</sup> year. Rev. Kershner thanked the congregation for their generosity to the ministry and mission of Fourth Presbyterian Church with a 95% pledge fulfillment rate. Rev. Kershner reviewed the work of the various boards and task forces over the last year including operational ministries, budget planning, and strategic directions. This resulted in the hiring of the Reverend Andrea Denney as Executive Director of Operational Ministries; the shift our budget planning to an earlier time frame to accommodate vision followed by budget; and involving more of our Trustees and Elders in important decisions for now and in the future by setting our priorities. The five strategic directions are starting to make their way into committee work and the communications team is working on ways to make the congregation aware of this work.

Rev. Kershner announced that due to large gifts made at years end, the Trustees and Elders have healthy amount of these funds in a restricted fund for new and renewed strategic directions purposes. There will be the formation of a grant making group to screen and prioritize these decisions.

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

**Nominating Committee Report**

Elder Toni Yang reviewed the process for the Nominating Committee to select individuals for election of lay leaders as officers. Chair Yang 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 2023

*Doug Andrews*  
*Rhonda Carlson*  
*Bob Day*  
*Heather Gallenbeck*  
*Armon Haagen*  
*Ruben Harris*  
*Cynthia Johnson*  
*Jean Joslyn*

*Marc Miller*  
*Samme Orwig*  
*Melanie Oh Pierce*  
*Brian Satre*  
  
*Maddie Pieper (Youth)*  
*Katie Reome (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**.

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

Class of 2023

*Anita Balodis*  
*Beth Stone Bentley*  
*Connie Chang*  
*Joanne Gaines*  
*Michelle Hayes*  
*Stephanie Jenks*  
*Brian Louis*  
*Brenda Mauldin*  
*Marcella McGuinn*

*Kathy O'Connor*  
*Alisa Rantanen*  
*Emily Barker Stanley*  
*Evadne Stephens*  
*Kashane Taylor*  
*Tony Vitale*  
  
*Addie Cook (Youth)*  
*Samuela Kosipa (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**.

Elder Yang moved the election of the following candidates to represent the congregation as members-at-large of the 2020 Nominating Committee:

*Blake Anderson*  
*Joy Anderson*  
*Linda Crane*  
*Carol Lobbes*

*John Shonkwiler*  
*Barton Tretheway*  
*Stephanette Walker*

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 2020 Nominating Committee was **adopted**.

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

## **Recognition of the Chicago Lights Board**

The Moderator called on Bill Patterson to speak on behalf of the Chicago Lights Board, who reviewed the work of Chicago Lights and the support of the congregation. Through the compassion, commitment, time and financial support of the congregation, Chicago Lights have been able to provide the Elam Davies Social Services Center has been able to change the lives of 80 individuals through case management; the Urban Farm provided job training and garden skills; the Dance Academy provided dance instruction; engagement in arts and enrichment during summer program who improved language and math skills; the tutoring program provided mentorship with a caring adult with improvement in language arts skills and 100% senior graduation with 83% applying and being accepted to college. Bill Patterson thanked those individuals who have served on the Chicago Lights board.

Looking forward, there are more with needs in the City and Chicago Lights hopes to reach 4,000 people and need your assistance to make this possible. We need you to dedicate your time, talent and treasure.

The Moderator, Rev. Shannon Kershner asked for a motion to recess the Congregational Meeting and convene the Meeting of the Corporation. It was moved, seconded and **adopted**.

The Moderator introduced Larry Braskamp, President of the Board of Trustees.

## **Meeting of the Corporation**

Mr. Larry Braskamp, President the Board of Trustees, convened the meeting of the Corporation. A motion to approve the minutes of the 149<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the corporation held on February 10, 2019 was made, seconded and **adopted**.

Mr. Larry Braskamp thanked the congregation, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, for their financial support over the past year. Because of this support, we have a balanced budget from 2019 and into 2020; we have only drawn 5% from endowment for operations as budgeted; and we have received 97% of the pledges from the congregation. Mr. Braskamp stated that the Board of Trustees and Session have been studying future priorities and needs and have decided to address issues of operations and facilities in order to fulfill our strategic directions initiative and priorities.

Treasurer Robert Doak reviewed the 2019 financial report and the 2020 financial budget as approved by the Boards of Fourth Presbyterian Church, which were distributed to the congregation. Mr. Doak reviewed the revenue and expenses for the 2019 report and the 2020 budget. Mr. Doak asked those who have not pledged for 2020 to consider making a pledge to ease the planning of the budget.

Mr. Doak reviewed the endowment status and the draw; the maintenance needs for the building and the board approval for these operational needs; and wages and benefits.

Mr. Doak thanked the congregation for their support of the Fourth Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Braskamp thanked Mr. Doak for his work as Treasurer over the past year.

Mr. Braskamp introduced Elder Toni Yang, Chair of the Nominating Committee.

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

Class of 2023

*Jean Ban  
Jeanne Bishop  
Doug Grissom  
Mark Hurley*

*Fred Schwartz  
Sally Scott  
Betsy Zeiger*

Elder Yang 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, Trustee President Braskamp 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, Rev. Shannon Kershner, reconvened the meeting of the Congregation of Fourth Presbyterian Church, and called on Ms. Arlene Faulk, Co-Chair of the Personnel Committee and member of the Joint Finance Committee for a report from the Personnel Committee.

**Report of the Personnel Committee**

Ms. Arlene Faulk, Co-Chair of the Personnel Committee, reflected on a statement from Rev. Shannon Kershner in regards to this church 100 years ago, “What makes this corner so magnificent is what has always made it so magnificent – that somehow, in God’s goodness and imagination, God decided to form an imperfect, messy, resilient, stubborn, vibrant, broken and beautiful community of faith called Fourth Presbyterian Church, a people who do our best to seek the welfare, the well-being of the city, because God has asked us to do so, because what happens in the city matters to God. And we continue to say yes.” (*Sermon – Seek the Welfare of the City, Fourth Presbyterian Church, September 29, 2019*)

Ms. Faulk presented a snapshot of the staff working together with the congregation to develop, direct and nurture all aspects of the worship, spiritual development and mission outreach life. This skilled and dedicated staff are a mosaic of interrelated parts. Each person provides value in their work to contribute to the whole. Each person and each function contribute to the ministries of the church.

The Personnel Committee works with and supports our staff in many ways. The Personnel Committee helps to lead the staff review process, including goal setting and reviews with each Program Staff member, involving many Session Committee leaders and heads of Boards as part of the process. The Committee monitors and analyzes salary levels, to ensure our pay scales are commensurate with like positions in similar organizations and continually analyzes and discusses our organizational design.

Ms. Faulk expressed gratitude for Rev. Shannon Kershner and her leadership, careful listening and collaboration leading our strategic vision statements; her promoting transparency and collaborations with staff and church leaders; and for her witness of faith through excellent, engaging sermons; for her challenging all of us to think about what God is calling us to do and be as part of this faith community; and for her encouraging us to inhale God’s grace and then go out into our daily life to exhale God’s goodness and love in helping to create a better world. We celebrate her fifth anniversary with Fourth Church this past May.

Ms. Faulk reviewed the transitions in staff over the past year:

1. Abbi Heimach-Snipes' Pastoral Residency concluded in June. We did not replace in like kind; we hired a Field Education student from McCormick Seminary, Lois Snively. The Minister for Evangelism assumes the 20's and 30's Ministry.
2. Our Director of Worship, Shawn Fiedler, moved away; we hired a new Director of Worship, Michael Mirza.
3. The Director of Business Administration, Marty Sherrod, retired in April. A special task force, the Readiness Task Force, was well underway in its work reviewing what operational and financial positions would be needed going forward. Rev. Andrea Denney was hired for a newly created position, Executive Director of Operational Ministries. Mr. Bob Doak has been overseeing Financial areas on an interim basis.
4. Session approved the formation of an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee for the position Associate Pastor for Evangelism and Community Engagement; they are currently hard at work with this search.
5. Rev. Judith Watt retired on December 15, 2019. The Personnel Committee recommended, and Session approved, an Interim Minister for Pastoral Care position. We are close to making a recommendation for a candidate to fill that position.

We are grateful for all our staff, who work together for our Church. Ms. Faulk recognized individual employees who will mark a milestone anniversary of service this year to Fourth Church and/or Chicago Lights:

For 25 years of service:

- Vanzelia Young, Program Assistant, Tutoring

For 20 years of service:

- Ann Rehfeldt, Director of Communications
- Daniel Julius Henry, Jr., Chorister
- Cole Seaton, Chorister
- Anne Ellis, Program Manager, Discipleship and Small Group Ministry

For 15 years of service:

Alex Cornwall, Executive Programs Director – Chicago Lights

For 10 years of service:

- Orlando Drummond, Facilities Associate
- Susan Blecher, Nursery Attendant
- Laura Perkett, Chorister
- Josie Phelps, Administrative Assistant – Day School

For 5 years of service:

- Julian Harris, Digital Music Instructor – Tutoring
- Jeff Doane, Parish Associate
- Bonita Wright, Receptionist
- Jeremy Pfaff, Editorial Assistant
- Ron Porras, Donor Information and Gift Processing Coordinator
- Briana Belding-Peck, Family Ministry Coordinator

- Deja Stout, Associate Director – Urban Farm
- Micah Dinger, Chorister
- Earleen Osborne, Program Assistant – Tutoring
- Chris Norton, Music Coordinator
- Fred Hickler, Technology Manager
- Patty Sokolow, Program Services and Volunteer Manager - Elam Davies Social Services Center
- Nanette Sawyer, Associate Pastor, Discipleship and Small Group Ministry

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 “Come Sing O Church in Joy” and with prayer by Rev. Kershner.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon J. Kershner, Moderator