

Newtonville United Methodist Church
Charge Conference via Zoom
January 3, 2021 Noon

In attendance:

Rev. Debbie Earthrowl	District Superintendent
Rev. Steven Smith	Pastor
Charles Bonsu	
Art Bowen	
Jeanne Chesney	U M Women
Kathy Franklin	Financial Sec.
Eric Jensen	Treasurer
Joan Jensen	Council chair
Joan Jensen	Recording Sec. pro tem
Bob Kircher	Trustee chair
Pam LaCasio,	Lay Leader
Kathy Mascelli	Care & Nurture-Bereavement
David McGeough-Gamache	Finance Comm
Pam Palmer	Care & Nurture- Fellowship
Kingsley Osei	Staff Parish Relations
Stefanie Perez,	Staff Parish Relations
Glen Sheffer,	Lay Member AC
Liska Gibbons	Care & Nurture-Bereavement
Heather Smith,	Membership
Sam Smith	
Tony Tremblay	

The meeting was called to order by presiding elder District Superintendent, Rev. Debbie Earthrowl at 12:05pm. She announced that, due to COVID-19 restrictions, all required voting in person or by written ballot would be suspended for this meeting. Voting by emoji, raising of the hand or voice would be accepted.

Opening Prayer was led by Rev. Steven Smith.

(Lay Leadership) Nominations Report was presented by Pastor Steve. He indicated that many positions had been filled at the October 31, 2020 charge conference including Trustees (see report) and Staff Parish chair, Kingsley Osei. Remaining Staff Parish nominees were Pat Gogol, Class of 2021 to fill the position vacated by Stefanie Perez; Sue Brooks and Tony Tremblay for the Class of 2023; one opening remains to be filled by nominations from the floor. None heard. The vote for those nominated was unanimous. Lay Leadership will continue to work on a third nominee for the Class of 2023. Report attached.

Finance Reports

Kathy Franklin reported that pledges have exceeded 100% as of December 31st; report attached is preliminary as it was submitted before year end. Despite income falling short due to cancellation of fund-raisers, all bills have been paid without significant use of reserve funds
Report attached.

Eric Jensen reported that the Building Fund was also funded at 128% of pledges. The shortfall in plate donations, fund-raisers and preschool was somewhat balanced by donations in lieu of traditional fund-raisers and reduced staff, maintenance and utility bills. Report attached.

The federal PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) is expected to cancel at least a portion of the \$5,200 loan upon application for forgiveness. Eric is preparing to submit the application as soon as Key Bank makes the online portal available.

2021 Budget

Eric Jensen submitted the proposed 2021 budget (attached). Finance Committee recommends that no salary increases be included at this time, but will reevaluate the increases at mid-year. The proposal assumes that fund raisers will take place this year.

After a time for questions about the budget, a vote was taken. Passed unanimously.

Trustee Report

Report attached.

Motion to Purchase Anker Property

Trustees moved that the Charge Conference accept the Trustee recommendation to purchase the lot owned by George Anker on Maxwell Road, adjacent to the current Newtonville United Methodist Church property, for a price of \$60,000, with the understanding and agreement that this is a bargain sale to a charitable organization with a market value of \$65,000.

The Trustees will retain an attorney to develop the specific language of the contract and deed to include the appropriate trust clause as outlined in paragraphs 2503 and 2538 of the 2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline. *This contract and deed will be subject to review by the Chancellor of the Upper New York Annual Conference.

Seconded by Glen Sheffer.

Discussion followed. The property would be purchased using an anonymous gift given years ago with the expressed hope that it could be used for that purpose. The intent is that the land could be developed for a few more parking spots and for summer worship and similar uses by the church.

Passed unanimously.

A letter of approval will be written by Pastor Steve and District Superintendent Debbie Earthrowl to the Conference.

Closing Prayer & Adjournment

Rev. Debbie Earthrowl closed with prayer. Adjourned.