

PCUUC 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2024

DRAFT—TO BE APPROVED AT 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

The meeting was opened at 9:29 a.m. by Moderator Janean Friedman, who lit the chalice flame.

The 20% quorum (14 attendees) was confirmed by Church Administrator Karen Schachtschneider, who said that 26 attendees were present (based on numbers collected by co-host Tamara Wanshek as people entered the Zoom meeting). The total number of voting attendees rose to 29 during the meeting. Outcome of polls was announced by Tamara throughout the meeting.

The Moderator reminded attendees of the 7 Principles, which were displayed on a slide.

Recording was begun at this point.

The Moderator talked through the meeting guidelines as they were displayed on the screen and explained the process of voting on Zoom for both one- and two-person households. She encouraged attendees to use the chat for comments and questions and mentioned that the co-host, Tamara, would monitor chat throughout the meeting. Non-members were asked to refrain from voting. Board members have voted separately, and their votes will be added in the event poll results are very close.

The Moderator then displayed the Agenda and read through the topics up for vote at the meeting.

Poll 1: Approval of the Agenda

Phoenix Kosing motioned to proceed to vote; Dave Bates seconded the motion. Moderator asked for questions about the agenda. The Zoom Technical Host, Eric Foote, launched the first poll. The agenda was approved (22 Yes votes; 0 No votes).

Poll 2: Approval of the June 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

Moderator asked for a vote to approve the Minutes of last year's Annual Meeting. Tamara Wanshek motioned to proceed to vote; Jim Whitton seconded the motion. Moderator asked for questions before the vote. Eric Foote launched to poll. Minutes were approved (21 Yes votes; 0 No votes).

Minister's Report

Moderator asked Chaplain Dave Becker for the Minister's Report. Chaplain Dave, who serves in a yoked ministry for PCUUC and Tree of Life UUC in McHenry, gave a brief summary of his work for PCUUC since he began his job with PCUUC and TOL on January 1, 2024. Dave referred to the full written report he submitted (in the Reports packet for this Annual Meeting).

President's Report

Board President Scott Helmke presented his annual report. The highlight of the year was the hiring of Chaplain Dave, a process that began in early 2023.

Scott also mentioned PCUUC's new relationship with the owner of the Byron Colby Barn (Prairie Crossing Charter School). The Barn is no longer a rental space; we're the only organization besides PCCS that uses it. This coming year, PCUUC will be collaborating with PCCS to present several events. For example, we might hire someone to speak on environmentalism, or on other topics that we and PCCS share an interest in.

Scott acknowledged the help of Jason Grover in implementing the new Google Workspace. He thanked Janean Friedman and Eric Foote as Moderator and Zoom Technical Host, respectively.

Janean mentioned that attendees would be asked to approve the new relationship with PCCS later in the meeting. She referred to the Memorandum of Understanding that was previously published and discussed in a special meeting with the congregation.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer PennySue McKenzie presented the Treasurer's Report and Proposed Budget for 2024-2025. She noted that she's finishing her second year as Treasurer, and she thanked the congregation, Joyce, and Karen for their help.

PennySue said that pledges are down (\$68,840 as of the writing of her report). The 2024 Silent Auction was a huge success with income of more than \$4,592. She thanked the Grovers and all who participated in the Silent Auction.

The breakdown of the minister's compensation is included in the packet; an increase in health insurance rates is anticipated.

PennySue proposed a 3.2% COLA increase for employees. PLAWA (Paid Leave for All Workers Act), which allows all workers to earn up to 40 hours of paid leave each year, took effect in Illinois this year; this adds a small amount to our budget to cover PLAWA PTO for those employees who have not previously received paid time off.

In response to a question she'd received from a congregant before the meeting, PennySue explained that "reserves" are not a savings account we can tap into; they are an accumulated surplus of money from a prior year's budget that was unused. At the end of a fiscal year, unused money is automatically rolled into reserve accounts. We currently have \$56,100 of unspent FY24 funds, and we're asking that the transfer of those be approved to fill our budget gap.

Poll 3: Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with PCCS for the use of the Colby Barn

Motion to vote by Fran and Dave Bates; second by Leticia Swift. Moderator asked for questions before Eric Foote launched the poll. After the poll had been launched, Tamara Wanshek alerted the Moderator

to a question in the chat. Lynn Hepler asked: “Will advertising of the special events in the Barn include our name, or just PCCS?”

Scott responded that church and state separation would need to be observed and noted that this point has not been explicitly covered yet under our agreement with PCCS. We can have our literature available but would not be doing anything that would be considered religious outreach.

Follow-up question: “Can we have our literature out at events?” Scott said that we would probably be able to have generic, non-religious PCUUC literature out at events that directs people to our website for more information.

Results: 20 Yes votes.

Poll 4: Approval of the Proposed Budget for 2024-2025

Vote was called to approve the proposed budget (including transfer of funds) for the coming fiscal year.

Tamara Wanshek motioned to proceed to vote; Fran and Dave Bates seconded the motion.

Question from Joyce DeWitt in chat: “Do we need two votes, one for the budget and one for the balancing?”

Scott said we could do it either way—the approved agenda included two separate votes, so he proposed we go ahead with two votes, according to the agenda we all approved. He asked if there was any objection to doing so.

Moderator asked if Zoom Host could retrieve the slide that had been removed (about transfer of funds). He noted the link between the two polls; you can’t approve the budget without tacitly approving the transfer. For protocol’s sake, we can run two votes. First vote would be for the budget and the second vote would be to approve the transfer.

Question from Dave Bates “Is the rent agreement now different?” He questioned the \$10,000 for use of the Barn. Dave explained that in the past we’ve paid week by week for our use of the Barn. This seems like a \$10K flat payment; is that for the entire year?

Scott responded that we’re still paying PCCS to use the Barn, but under the terms of the MOU, we’re also putting staff time and other resources into planning events. PennySue explained that the total rent budget includes things like the P.O. Box rental in addition to the Barn rental. Because of the MOU, the \$10K we’ll pay in FY25 is actually less than what we paid in FY24 for Barn rental.

Question about where the expenses for filing IRS 990 annual report appear in the budget. Sean Smetana said that religious organizations are not required to file 990s.

Joyce asked for the summary slide that was displayed earlier; thought it would help answer Dave Bates’s question. The slide talked about how the \$10,000 was broken down. (This was actually broken down in the Memorandum of Understanding, Dave Becker said.)

There were no further questions, so Moderator asked for a motion and a second to approve the Proposed Budget for 2024-2025. Fran and Dave Bates made the motion and Jim Whitton seconded it. Moderator asked for final questions and mentioned there'd be a second vote to approve the transfer of funds. The poll was launched.

Tamara Wanshek said that Leticia Swift had her hand raised. Leticia asked whether or not her votes have been recorded. She has been clicking on her vote but has not been able to submit it from her iPad. Have her votes been recorded? Tamara explained that a single voter must choose the option that says "N/A only one member is voting." Leticia said she isn't seeing that option. Janean suggested that Leticia scroll down a little further to find that option for future votes.

Zoom Host announced that the Proposed Budget was approved (17 Yes; 2 No).

Poll 5: Approval of Transfer of Funds from the Accumulated Surplus Reserve Fund to balance the 2024-2025 Budget

Moderator asked for a motion to vote to approve transfer of funds to balance the budget. Fran and Dave Bates motioned to proceed to vote; Phoenix Kosing seconded the motion. Moderator asked if there were any questions before the vote; no hands were raised. Poll was launched and transfer was approved (21 Yes; 1 No).

Board Slate

Moderator thanked this year's Nominating Committee (Julie McCarthy, Jim Whitton, Jason Grover, and Leticia Swift). Jim Whitton, representing the Nominating Committee, said that new additions to the Board are: Thad Smith, Dave Bates, and Ginny Krueger.

Three Board members (Scott Helmke, PennySue McKenzie, and Tamara Wanshek) complete their terms at the end of FY 2023-2024 and three (Trisha Steele, Christine Tyll, and Chris Krohn) will return for their second year.

The proposed Board slate for FY 2024-2025:

Trisha Steele, President (moving from President-Elect)

Thad Smith, President-Elect (will become President for FY 2025-2026)

Dave Bates, Treasurer (beginning 2-year term)

Christine Tyll, Secretary (will serve 1 more year)

Chris Krohn, Trustee (will serve 1 more year)

Ginny Krueger, Trustee (beginning 2-year term)

Poll 6: Approval of the Board Slate for 2024-2025 as submitted by the Nominating Committee

Vote was called on the Board slate. Tamara Wanshek motioned to proceed to vote; Jim Whitton seconded the motion. Moderator asked for questions. The poll was launched, and the slate was approved (21 Yes; 1 No).

Proposed Nominating Committee Slate

Jim Whitton read the Nominating Committee slate for FY 2024-2025.

Completing their terms as of June 30, 2024:

Julie McCarthy

Jim Whitton

New members (will serve through June 2026):

Gus Martorano

Tamara Wanshek

Continuing members (will serve through June 2025):

Jason Grover

Leticia Swift

Poll 7: Approval of the Incoming Members of the Nominating Committee

Vote was called on the Nominating Committee slate. Fran and Dave Bates motioned to proceed to vote; Tamara Wanshek seconded the motion. Moderator asked for questions. Slate was unanimously approved. (21 Yes)

Incoming President's Message: Trisha Steele

Trisha said that PCUUC has exciting things coming up: a full year with Chaplain Dave, a full year in the Barn with up four programs that will help us reach out to the community with messages about our values, diversity, and environmental justice. She thanked Scott Helmke for a year of calm leadership that made her year so much easier. She thanked all the Board members and Chaplain Dave for his warm and enthusiastic participation, especially for his help communicating effectively with the Charter School.

Thanks

Moderator thanked Trisha for her message and checked the chat one last time to see if there were any outstanding questions or concerns. She thanked all those who helped put the Annual Meeting together.

Conclusion

Chalice flame was extinguished, and the meeting ended at 10:26 a.m.