

**DRAFT MINUTES OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
AUGUST 13, 2017**

These Draft Minutes are available on the **Members Access Web Site** at <https://sites.google.com/site/faithuccmembers/mlc-minutes>.

**I. ATTENDANCE AND DIRECTORY**

A copy of the Church Directory was circulated. Members confirmed that their contact information was correct and initialed the sheet to indicate their attendance.

**II. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Barb Holtz at 11:20AM, followed by an opening prayer by Pastor Gene McAfee.

**III. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on April 30, 2017 were accepted, and reading of those minutes was waived, by unanimous approval. The Annual Meeting Minutes are available to Members at <https://sites.google.com/site/faithuccmembers/mlc-minutes>.

**IV. TURN UP THE LIGHTS**

Barb opened the floor for questions and comments from the members, kicking off with the questions "Do you feel overwhelmed or underwhelmed by how much our church is doing? What are we doing too much of and/or what are we doing too little of?" Answers included:

- Too little Sunday School for children.
- One possibility could be to bring back Children's Time during worship.
- Another possibility could be to have rotating teaching teams "on standby" for those Sundays when children show up.
- To avoid undue burden on teaching teams, a few kits of teaching materials might be prepared ahead of time (and the teams trained in their use) and be on hand for deployment when needed.

**V. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Phil Juarez presented the Treasurer's Report as of this date with the following highlights:

- "The state of the church is good."
- Giving is almost exactly on track as budgeted.
- Expenses are running a bit higher than budgeted, mostly due to the fact that monthly variability is not included in the budget estimates.
- Income is currently running \$2K ahead expenses vs. \$4K budgeted YTD.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

**Parking lot finishing** - Barb reported that work on the parking lot is done except for mulching and seeding with no-mow grass and flowering plants, creating a little meadow in the parking lot. Seeding will be done in the fall. Barb has a list of the composition of the seed mix for those who may be interested.

**Cookbook update** - There are currently more than 60 recipes for the new 60th Anniversary Cookbook. There are currently plenty of desserts, so non-dessert recipes are still welcome, along with any of your favorites from the previous edition. You can bring your recipes in for Kelly Holtz or e-mail them to her : [klouholtz@yahoo.com](mailto:klouholtz@yahoo.com). **RECIPE DEADLINE: SUNDAY, AUGUST 20.**

**Banners, magnets, flyers, visitor packet**

- The new banners and frames for the front lawn have arrived and were available for viewing at the meeting. A **VOTE OF THANKS BY ACCLAMATION** was given to Scott Dorey for his work in production of the banners.
- Car magnets, a small flyer and other materials are in production for the new visitor packet and other marketing uses.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

**Resolution of Witness** - By secret ballot, the Congregation **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED** the adoption by this congregation of the previously circulated Resolution of Witness passed by the UCC National Synod on July 3, 2017 titled "THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S - NOT OURS TO WRECK". A copy of this resolution is available as an attachment to the webpage for this meeting at <http://www.faithuccrhoh.org/news-1/congregationalmeetingaugust132017>.

**Green Team for church landscaping** - Anyone interested in joining a "Green Team" for maintenance and improvement of our gardens and green spaces is requested to contact Barb Holtz.

**Art piece for front lawn** - The only artwork that presents our church to the public passing by on Richmond Road is the cross on the front of our chimney, which is in disrepair and (fortunately?) mostly not visible from the road. Members are invited to submit ideas to any member of MLC for a piece of art to be located in a prominent location visible from the road, announcing our presence and symbolizing who we are and what we stand for.

**Christmas Eve plans** - Pastor Gene announced that, in order to accommodate members of the community who would like to participate in a traditional Christmas Eve service but may not be able to participate in Communion, the Worship Committee has decided that this year's Christmas Eve festivities will begin with Communion at 4:30, followed by our traditional potluck dinner at 5:15 and Christmas Eve service (without Communion) at 7:30.

**Roots Tour** - Full information and a signup page are now available online at <http://www.faithuccrhoh.org/news-1/rootstour> for the Reformed Christianity Roots Tour of Europe on June 24 to July 9, 2018, to be led by Pastor Gene McAfee. The price will be approximately \$5700 per person based on double occupancy. **SIGNUP DEADLINE: SEPT 8, 2017** with a non-refundable deposit of \$400 per person due on October 6. **PAPER COPIES** of the tour information and sign-up sheet are available for those without Internet access.

**Charlottesville** - A "Love Offering" will be taken up next Sunday, August 20 for Sojourners UCC in Charlottesville, VA to assist them in community re-building after the tragic events of this weekend.

**Pastor Gene's Sabbatical Re-Entry Celebration** will be held on a private car of the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad on the afternoon of **Sunday, October 29**. Capacity of the car is 42 persons. A sign-up sheet will be posted.

**VII. NEXT MEETING**

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on **December 17** following Worship.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned to the lawn for the annual Summer Picnic at 11:58AM with a closing prayer by Pastor Gene McAfee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Christensen  
Secretary of the Congregation