

CONGREGATIONAL
ANNUAL MEETING
Sunday, January 29, 2023

The annual meeting of the congregation of the Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church was held in the Sanctuary on Sunday, January 29, 2023 at 11:13 AM. Members could also watch the meeting via Zoom. Rev. Lent announced the meeting at the two previous Sunday Worship Services. The Zoom link was sent out via email. Supporting reports and documents were posted in advance on the church website and were available in the Sanctuary before the meeting began.

MEETING OPENS WITH
PRAYER

The Rev. Paul Lent opened the meeting with prayer.

CALL TO ORDER

Moderator Rev. Paul Lent called the 14th Annual Meeting of the congregation of Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church to order. Clerk of Session Susan Conrad confirmed that member attendance in the Sanctuary exceeded the quorum of twenty-five people.

CLERK OF SESSION
STATISTICAL REPORT

Clerk of Session Susan Conrad reported that our 2022 membership stands at 397. We had 9 new members with 2 by adult transfer and 7 by adult professions of faith and reaffirmations. We had 7 infant baptisms. We had 2 members transfer out, and 3 deaths: Ed Joba (7/11/22), Jean Craig (11/8/22), and Dee Lowe (12/6/22).

MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence was shared for those from our congregation who died in 2022.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
TAKEN AT JANUARY 30,
2022 ANNUAL MEETING

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the January 30, 2022 Annual Congregational Meeting.

PASTORS REPORT

Rev. Paul Lent shared that many things come to mind when he thinks about the past year. A big accomplishment was the completion of the Steeple Renovation, the final item on our building program wish list. The project cost \$74,800, of which \$11,135.59 came from the remainder of the Building Fund and \$5,000 from Session Discretionary Fund. The majority of the project was paid for by members and friends of the congregation with \$14,500 of the \$40,870 given in memory of Maureen Doherty and Session dedicated the tower renovation in Maureen Doherty's honor. Rev. Lent encouraged everyone to read Dorothy Wardell Boice's 1953 poem "Across the Years," included in your meeting packet. Boice's poem has a recurring line "the Church of Freedom Plains, (t)he Church that wears a crown." Think of this poem as you look up at the Crown which sits atop our steeple. Rev. Lent thanked Doug and Annvida Kellermeyer for all their work with the Sunday School program and the Junior and Senior High Youth. He also acknowledged our new Music Director Colin Roshak and those who are singing in our choir. These are positive signs of a new normal.

REPORT OF THE
CONGREGATIONAL
NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee presented the following persons as Elders for the Class of 2026 – Michael Butts, James Hahm, Doug Kellermeyer, Marge Smith, and Tim Walters. Two Youth Elder positions remain open.

ELECTION OF ELDERS

There being no nominations from the floor, and the congregation having approved the slate with none opposed, the moderator asked the Clerk to cast one ballot. Rev. Lent recognized the outgoing Elders Kristin Fandl, Melissa Wade Haras, and Suzanne Williams and thanked them for their service.

ELECTION OF DEACONS

The Nominating Committee presented the following persons as Deacons for the Class of 2026 – Nancy Insalaco, Mary Ann Russo, Mary Sawyer, and Colleen Snavely. One position of Deacon remains open. Two Youth Deacon positions remain open.

There being no nominations from the floor, and the congregation having approved the slate with none opposed, the moderator asked the Clerk to cast one ballot. Rev. Lent recognized the outgoing Deacons Mark Christensen, Annvida Kellermeyer, Ruth Runyan, and Jill Underwood and thanked them for their service.

ELECTION OF 2023
CONGREGATIONAL
NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The 2022 nominating committee presented the following persons for the 2023 nominating committee – Kristin Fandl, Melissa Wade Haras, Suzanne Williams, and Annvida Kellermeyer.

There being no nominations from the floor, and the congregation having approved the slate with none opposed, the moderator asked the Clerk to cast one ballot. Rev. Lent recognized the 2022 nominating committee – Jennifer Barry, Arne Christensen, Pauline Edwards-Goodrich, and Nancy Redkey, and thanked them for their service.

A round of applause was given for all the deacons and elders who will serve in the coming year.

APPOINT READERS OF THE
MINUTES

Judy Walters and Suzanne Williams were appointed to read the minutes from this Congregational Meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR 2022

Treasurer Lou Biskup reported on the 2022 budget. He explained how a fund account differs from a budget account. The fund account lasts from year to year. The budget account is the general operating fund. The 2022 projected budget was \$338,537 and the actual budget was \$328,069. Lou Biskup noted that the Nursery School has its own budget. Treasurer Lou Biskup noted that the church is on sound financial footing even with the swings in the stock market the past year, pointing out key aspects of operating budget and invested funds. Lou Biskup thanked Assistant Treasurer Gerry DiFiglio for all his hard work. There were no questions. Rev. Lent thanked Lou Biskup and Gerry DiFiglio for jobs well done and those in attendance applauded their efforts.

2023 STEWARDSHIP
REPORT

Elder Suzanne Williams shared that stewardship is more than money and all the things people do are an important part of stewardship. She reported that to date 70 people have pledged for 2023 and that the average pledge amount has increased from 2021. The amount budgeted for Regular Offerings in 2023 based on current pledges is \$291,500. Suzanne Williams reminded everyone of funds given in the past by members through their wills for future use. She recommended we remember when writing our wills to leave something for the on-going mission of the church.

2023 PASTORS' SALARY
REVIEW AND
COMPENSATION
PROPOSAL

Nancy Redkey from the Personnel Committee reminded the group that when a church calls a pastor, we pledge to compensate them fairly. Rev. Lent will receive no increase in his salary of which \$27,000 is paid as housing allowance, but will receive additional vacation time for a total of 8 weeks of vacation and 2 weeks of study leave. Rev. Finck will receive a 5.0% in base salary from 2022 with \$22,000 paid as housing allowance, 1 month of vacation, and two weeks of study leave. No questions were raised and no dissent was noted. Thus, Elder Nancy Redkey asked the members to receive and support the compensation report, which they did.

PRESENTATION OF THE
2023 BUDGET

Elder Neal Townsend reported on the 2023 budget. Projected expenses were increased and it is anticipated that insurance, natural gas, custodial expenses, and bookkeeping expenses will increase. Several overview presentations with more detail and a several page narrative is available on the website. Session carried over funds not used from last year's budget and Rev. Lent will take some of his compensation as vacation, which improve our budget situation. A motion was made and seconded to support the 2023 Operating Budget. Those in attendance supported the 2023 budget.

REPORT OF 2022
BENEVOLENCE GIVING

Mission Committee co-chair Ellen McCutcheon reported on the 2022 budgeted benevolences, special offerings and other monetary contributions from the FPUPC community, which totaled \$68,457. Budgeted benevolences to local, regional, and international initiatives totaled \$29,175. The PCUSA Special Offerings and other monetary benevolences from the FPUPC community were outlined. One notable monetary benevolence is the \$10,696.80 raised to date for *Team Moody* for the Dutchess County Interfaith Council CROP Walk, which was in-person this year. And the Easter A. S. K. (A Single Kindness) Offering raised over \$16,218.95 to support Dutchess Outreach by providing funds for a flash freezer to be purchased in the near future. The long list of non-monetary contributions of time and talent reflect the many ways our congregation serves the community. Ellen McCutcheon acknowledged co-chair Colleen Snavelly's hard work for the Mission Committee.

Rev. Lent thanked the committee and the congregation for a job well done reaching out to a community and a world in need and led the group in a round of applause.

INVESTED FUNDS REPORT

Treasurer Lou Biskup reported that as of December 31, 2022, the FPUPC managed investments stood at \$2,505,336.71, the FPUPC Legacy Bonds stood at \$62,398.76, and the promissory note for Associate Pastor Rev. Finck's house was \$114,431.42. Lou Biskup shared that the Session supports a fully managed approach to manage invested funds with 75% in equities and 25% in bonds. Lou Biskup mentioned that the church received a donation of \$25,000 from Ed Joba. Lou Biskup thanked Gerry DiFiglio, who will step down as Assistant Treasurer, for all his hard work the past year. There were no questions, but a round of applause was given for the work done by the Treasurer and the Assistant Treasurer.

NEW BUSINESS

Rev. Lent said we are blessed to have dedicated staff, elders and deacons, and volunteers at Freedom Plains United. Rev. Lent asked if anyone had new business to bring up. No one raised new business. But Jennifer Barry asked us to remember what Ian Williamson always said, "Thank you to our ministers for all they do for our congregation."

ADJOURNED

It was moved, seconded, and passed to adjourn the meeting with prayer by Rev. Heather Finck at 11:54 AM.

Rev. Finck asked that we lift up in prayers those facing health challenges and the new members and families that are joining our congregation. Bless the work that we do. Many thanks for the resources you have entrusted to our use in our community and the world. Amen.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Conrad
Clerk of Session

Rev. Paul Lent
Minister

