

Newport Covenant Church
June 14, 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes

Opening:

- Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:31 pm by Barbara Moffat, Church Chair, via Zoom.
- Prayer: Pastor Erika opened in prayer
- Opening business
 - A quorum was established with well over 33 members present.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to adopt the agenda as amended.

APPROVED

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve previous Congregational Meeting Minutes as posted.

APPROVED

Pastoral Reports

- Interim Associate Pastor: Pastor Erika shared from Philippians 1:3-6, expressing thanksgiving to God for NCC and hope for the future.
 - She has been overwhelmed by the congregation's care for her and her family. She expressed the appreciation for Pastor Scott and the team she works with, the elder board and chair, Barbara Moffat.
 - We are a people of prayer with "Thy will be done." We have learned that sorrow and grief and joy and hope go hand in hand. This was a year of grief, transitions, changes, yet walking together the path of faith, remaining strong and vibrant even now.
 - She has closely worked with youth ministry team leaders in the midst of a whole year of losses, without a youth pastor, steadfast and filled with hope, leading with sacrificial joy. Even now in isolation because of the pandemic, God has brought us Amanda Moffat as our new Youth Director.
 - Romans 5: "We glory in our sufferings because they bring perseverance, hope and character," and likened it to what she has seen in this ministry. God has chosen each of us like a tapestry or quilt to bring a beautiful contrasting congregation of believers. We have learned of Him, taking His yoke, and learned and found rest for our souls. For the future, we trust that His yoke is easy and His burden is light.
- Associate Pastor: Pastor Scott reflected on two words: Hope and Sent.
 - Sent: Last year we were witnesses to the completion of powerful ministries at NCC, among them Barbara Anthony and Pastor David Beck. Newport is still a sent community, even in our grieving, and the changes that followed caused us to need to catch our breath. We've been in an extended season of crisis, and even in quarantine, even in time of lament, the Spirit says, "Newport you are sent." We are Sent in live-streaming and video conferences to continue being together, yet to be good citizens bringing an appropriate season of passivity. Yet we need to actively participate in our sending as the future unfolds.
 - Hope is an act of resistance, a protest against despair, a grounding in Jesus Christ. In upper room and Revelation, Christ's wounds are integral to Christian hope. Hope is not a hollow optimism but empowers us to notice. We have

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wounds as a church and community, but all are enfolded in the Hope that is grounded in resurrection and empowered in our participation of resurrection.

PACNW Conference Delegate Update (James & Young Hwang) (VIDEO CLIP) The conference was held online. They learned about the history of PACNW since 1887, its mission and goals. Members were accepted and removed.

Pastoral Search Committee (David Wirrick) (VIDEO CLIP) PSC has met since May 11. They are in first phase, ready to process the results of the church survey which is due today, June 12. They are updating the church brochure and information pages. In August, Conference Superintendent will review these documents and soon after begin to send information about candidates. Pray open to HS leading throughout process. Will update progress every 3 weeks.

Elder Board & Ministry Team Reports (VIDEO CLIPS)

- **Elder Board** (Barbara Moffat) We continue learning the meaning of the Simple Way of Jesus, and “Come to Me All”. New ways of expressing intentional community during Covid. We have 9 new members, looking at continued growth even while not meeting together. Applaud health team helping guide us through phases on reopening. Pray for new chair and secretary. Goals: transparency and following bylaws have been met. She blessed NCC as we move forward together.
- **Adult Formation** (Chris Purrier & Hiromi Fujiwara and Michelle Robblee): Thrive groups have grown a lot through the year. Shutdown brought change, but God provided, nevertheless. Brenda Giordano helped get the ladies’ Bible study via Zoom, and 90% of our ladies continued showing up, plus many others from around the country could join, swelling the number of ladies participating online. In current study learning that living a fruitful life, despite whatever else is happening, is very possible. Prayer: those who cannot join because of technology challenges.
- **Children & Families** (Carrie Koperski): this ministry primarily provides Sunday school Sundays and Wednesday night ministries coinciding with the Kids Players ministry. We’ve been able to reach out to shut ins and other community ministries. Please pray for us as we provide weekly Sunday School lessons via video during this isolation and continue to work with health team to provide guidance in plans for the reopening process.
- **Congregational Care** (Mel & Janet McIntyre): 17 deacons overseeing parishes provide a listening ear, connection, and help where able. James and Young have taken over the Factoria parish, and Jan Hamanishi is working with the Gervais’. With distancing guidelines, it’s a challenge. Pray that deacons provide effective care despite isolation, and that congregation will not hesitate to call for help.
- **Connections & Hospitality**: Angie Louie reported that this team welcomes and greets people into church, as well as many background ministries. They lost their first leader, Barbara Anthony, and Pastor David, yet God has supported them in their grief. All are welcome to join the team.
- **Creative Arts**: Chuck Royalty shared that we have paused activities since Covid, but they did provide the radio drama, It’s A Wonderful Life, last November.
 - Final Kids’ Players show by Sue Banks, to whom we owe a huge thanks.
 - Sue Banks: in fall 35 kids participated, Live in Bethlehem. In spring, after 2 months of rehearsals, Kids Players had to stop with Covid. They have since

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- continued rehearsals online, with extraordinary coordination and support from the Bridgelands, Sue and Daryl Banks, Brenda Giordano, and others.
- Pray for successful final presentation. Pray that in fall, with a new director, that most of the volunteers and children will return.
 - Missions & Outreach: They spotlighted some of our local missions as well as global mission partners. Our mission partners are dependent on us, and though our budget has been significantly reduced for next year, ways have been found to use the new budget to continue supporting them. Pray for our ministries to remain faithful.
 - Women Ministries: Marcia Howard reviewed the women's ministries from quilters to Bible Studies, the summer luncheon, the Camp of Cascades Women's Retreat, the Ladies' Christmas fellowship luncheon, and the widow's tea. During Covid, all Bible Studies resumed via Zoom.
 - Worship: Pastor Scott reported that the worship ministry team is a mosaic of people. A wide variety of preaching voices, new songs. Newport is characterized by heartfelt worship participation. Pray for changing ways of connecting and for discernment in how to responsibly manage the emerging reopening. Pray for how to leverage our resources and gifts, as God teaches and equips us for future ministry.
 - Youth: (Leslie Hergert) Both the high school group Sundays called Launch, and Wednesday night youth group, Voyageur, have met online since April. A new mission statement is being developed. Pray for male volunteer leadership, continued connecting with each other, and for transition with Amanda coming on as Youth Director.
 - NCC Preschool (April Kim): This year went well, with NCC preschool successful in spite of early closure. New communication access with instagram and website, the Remind app to text families confidentially. Thankful for NCC's support of preschool. Pray: for families and staff as they navigate through the future issues as school for all children will be different.

Finance & Budget (Heather Niemi, Church Treasurer) started with gratitude for the ways we have been able to connect together and the opportunity to serve in this way.

- 2019-2020 Financial Report: For 2019-20 the budgeted income and expenses were \$868K, the actual spending is projected to be \$883K, with the actual income projected to be \$804K this year. The whole story is that as income went down, much spending was adjusted to the reduced income.
 - A portion of the reduced income was due to the forgiveness of rental and admin costs to our preschool and other churches using our facility when Covid forced them to not access our facility.
 - Income trend for last few years has been slightly growing and right on as expected, but with the economic results of Covid, the giving is down at this point and is expected to ripple through the next fiscal year
 - Average weekly attendance has declined over the past 5 years but remains steady during recent months live-streaming services, an opportunity to open our doors differently.
 - Tithes and Offerings had shown about twice as many are giving online.
 - Giving trends: 97% comes from 71% of our committed givers.

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- Reserve funds: Average benevolence balance is maintained at about \$15K, given as needs arise. This can be in the form of rent/housing, healthcare, food and gas cards, auto expenses, and utilities.
- Repair and Replace has grown this year and will be flatlined in this budget with non-urgent spending to be deferred until later year.
- 2020-2021 Proposed Budget & Congregational Approval

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve the 2020-21 budget as presented.

APPROVED

- AFC / Facility Report: Worked on New Security plan; King County easement negotiations; approved an Eagle Scout project to repair stairs to Cabin 304 plus light landscaping; workroom remodeled, and servers moved; Financial Peace University held; security improvements; including intercoms throughout building.
- Auditor's Report concluded that all was handled according to the church policies and procedures. Any recommendations are in process of being implemented.

Leadership Changes

- Barbara expressed gratitude for the opportunity to be chair, and now heard God's message that her time is up. She is thrilled with leadership being prepared to step forward into the new position.
- Ballot: Dan Miller introduced the new candidates. Prov. 16:9: "The mind of man plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps."
 - Merrie Carson, Church Chair
 - Brenda Giordano, Church Secretary
 - Chris Purrier/Hiromi Fujiwara, Adult Formation co-MTL (re-election)
 - Jamielie Kheriaty Lewis, Women Ministries MTL
 - Connections & Hospitality - Angie Louie (re-election)
 - Missions and Outreach MTL - Joann Wilson
 - AFC - Sanford Peterson (re-election)
 - AFC - Phyllis Davis (re-election)
 - AFC - John Howard
 - Nominating Committee - Jim Tjelle
 - Nominating Committee - Priscilla Miller (re-election)
 - Nominating Committee - Jordan Louie (re-election)
 - Nominating Committee - Sue Noon (re-election)
 - Auditor - Kathy Anderson (re-election)

There were no nominations from the floor for any of these positions.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve the whole ballot as presented.

APPROVED

- Dan prayed God's protection, guidance, and grace over our newly elected leaders.
- Thank you to outgoing leaders: Dan thanked each leader for their service and prayed for them: Barbara Moffat, Carol Hibbard, Jim Moffat, Marcia Howard, Troy Schmeil, and John Howard.

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Words of Hope: Pastor Merrie Carson expressed being honored and that God confirmed her call to leadership as our new chair. She read from the 23rd Psalm, reminding that the Lord is with us as we move forward. We're not in charge but are in His care; we shall not want. She has been struck by how the elder board has sought God's face for His will for our church, and how God has led us and been very faithful. We have confidence that He will be leading us forward. Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

Closing: Pastor Merrie Carson, new Church Chair, then adjourned our meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Hibbard, secretary