

**Stanwich Church  
Annual Meeting  
Monday, June 12, 2017**

**Call to Order**

Rev. Dr. Nathan Hart

**Hymn** "Great is Thy Faithfulness"

**Devotion**

Rev. Dr. Chuck Davis

Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews talks about 2 groups of people, one, those who triumphed and two, those to whom terrible things happened, like being sawed in half.

The Church needs a good theology of power and a good theology of suffering.

In Hebrews, a collection of heroes of the faith ran their race, while waiting for the things promised. All of us are likely to go before realizing all of our dreams and/or answers to prayer. There is a great cloud of witnesses, now including Fran Adams, whom we just celebrated her entrance to the Lord's presence. We know we stand on shoulders of those who went before us. A former member recently said Nate Adams would be so happy to see the things that Stanwich is currently doing, which fulfill some of hopes and answers to Nate's prayers.

Remember this is not our agenda tonight and going forward. It's God's agenda.

**Welcome**

Laura Cunningham, Moderator

**Establishment of Quorum**

Charline Shaw, Clerk stated we have a quorum of more than 60 members.

**Charge to the Congregation by the Elders**

Beth Bergman (Co=chair of Elder Board): Pastor Chuck's opening devotional is confirmation of the thoughts, prayers and work of the Elders this year. We are part of a family that stretches back in time as well as out and around. Families grow and change and our church is growing, We want to be growing together and on mission together, a growing and mature Church.

Beth and Valerie Gammage (Co-chair of Elder Board) quoted from Ephesians 4. I urge you Stanwich Church "to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. <sup>2</sup> Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. <sup>3</sup> Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. "

### **Approval of the Minutes of the last Annual Meeting**

Elder Bill Voth reported that his name was misspelled in the Minutes. Laura Cunningham asked for motion to approve Minutes, with this correction needed.

So moved and voted unanimously to approve.

### **Approval of Annual Report**

Asked for motion to approve, so moved and voted unanimous to approve.

### **Nominating Committee Report**

Jeff Kohlberger, Chair of Nominating Committee Report

Asked for all members of Committee to stand. Jeff reported that the Committee members were in communication and prayer together and that the long chain of emails was evidence of the great communication.

The members feel strongly that each person nominated is an answer to prayer.

### **Election of Officers**

Slate of Officers to be Elected:

Elders:

Rocco Abbate '20

Mark Curtis '20

Valerie Gammage (1 year extension) '18

Ed Morgan '20

Eric Kampmann (to fulfill Amy Dye's term) '19

Moderator: Laura Cunningham  
Treasurer: Hal Knox  
Assistant Treasurer: Scott Mohr  
Clerk: Kimberly O'Hara (records), Charline Shaw (minutes)  
Historian: Warren Van Deventer  
Cemetery Superintendent: Russel (Trey) S. Reynolds III  
Internal Auditor: Mark Tibberts  
Nominating Committee: Cindy Conarro '19  
Adrienne Henkes '19

Jeff made the motion to elect the slate of officers. It was so moved and the ballots were passed out.

Pastor Chuck announced that Steve Reedy would no longer be the chairman of the Missions Committee but would remain a member. He thanked him and everyone clapped, thanking Steve for the great job he has done. While the ballots were counted, updates on Stanwich Stamford and Missions Committee were presented.

### **Update on Stanwich Stamford**

Rev. David Borden, Stanwich Stamford Campus Pastor reported that the goal is to cultivate a Christ Community in the Stamford south end.

Their continual prayer is that God would connect us with lay people in the apartment buildings in south end. A woman who is a fairly new resident of the south end came to David and said that she walks the halls of her building across the street, praying for the people in her building.

A neighbor of David came up to him and asked for healing for her mom. (This was following Chuck's prayer that someone would ask David to pray for healing.)

How to partner with Stanwich Stamford:

Pray

Serve at Pacific House

Come to services, particularly the outdoor services in July.

### **Report from the Missions Committee**

Rev. Steve Reedy, Missions Committee Chair said their constant prayer for Stanwich Stamford had been that God would deliver as pastor for that campus, a warrior and man of God's Word. God answered with David Borden — Army Chaplain and strong in the Word!

One of the goals of the Missions Committee is to have a balanced mix of ministry partners, local and global proclamation in word and deed.

Budget highlights: 10% increase in total budget to \$275,000

Changes:

Rebalancing (local)

Lemonade International (new partner \$10k)

(after school program in Guatemala City, 4 academies, Gospel centered)

Projects increase from \$33k to \$55k.

How Missions selected:

where fit in mix, geographical location

Do people served have access to the Gospel?

Does the ministry have low or high access to funding?

Is there potential for congregational engagement?

Budget for Projects is \$55k. These projects are TBD.

A proposal came this year to send a woman to Iraq to teach a craft/trade for women affected by ISIS.

Carl Higbie asked if there was synergy involved because of the 3 ministries in Guatemala. Steve said basically yes.

Laura LaSpalluto will be the new chairperson of the Missions Committee.

The Slate of Officers was unanimously elected.

### **Review of Financial Results to Date**

Hal Knox, Treasurer presented the Fiscal Year 2016 Audited Financial Results, noting that June 30 is the end of the fiscal year.

The elders are committed to complete financial transparency. We have internal and external auditors. Mark Tibberts does a great job as internal auditor.

It takes about \$2.5 million to run the church.

Monthly, since January this year, giving has been ahead of budget until May when there was slippage.

When the opportunity for 208 Taconic came, there was pressure on giving and expenses were cut to make budget.

For 2018, we need to restore budget amounts to levels before the purchase of 208 Taconic.

About 2.5% of the increase in budget is for capital maintenance of \$50k.

A full time executive director is now included in our budget which wasn't there last year.

Budgeted 2% increase in salary for staff next year. This past year there was no increase in salary for our staff.

There is only \$66k in capital fund and that needs to be boosted.

Update on 208 Taconic: Our goal is to pay off the mortgage this year. Letters have been sent out to remind people to please pay their commitments.

Joe McLaughlin: Ambitious budget, do you expect to take in enough revenue?

Knox: Yes

Based on trends?

We are being cautiously optimistic, through prayer and financial prudence, talking to elders, looked at prior year's budgets, but only getting back to a few years ago, but we're growing and this is where God wants us to be.

Any benchmarking with other churches?

Beth Bergman confirmed that Wes Lyvers had performed a salary benchmarking survey of other churches.

Joe: How about the discretionary funds? There are large amounts of money and are these paid on the basis of need?

Pastor Chuck reported that individuals often give anonymously to help others and this goes through the discretionary funds. For example, last December two members simultaneously came and said they wanted to give money to families that are in difficult situations. It seems that God moves the hearts of people giving and those in need, matching them in what can only be described as miraculously.

The business administrator has access to this information so it is not without checks and balances.

Carl: Will we keep external auditor when the bank debt is paid off?

Knox: Yes, I believe so, but the final decision is not yet made.

Ann Marie Graham: What was the large change in cash from 2015 to 2016?

Sheila Heiland: We started receiving money and pledges for 208 Taconic, so cash went up in 2015 and then the cash was used for the closing and cash decreased and property/real estate increased in 2016.

Neely Towe fund: Elders can decide ministries to use that for.

Reynolds Bible study fund, is for ministry in the congregation, like Fleming Rutledge seminar.

Trey Reynolds: Cemetery fund: There are a few small scale projects and a number of families have come forward to want to maintain their own areas.

Giving is anonymous to Knox. But giving in general is tied to financial markets and is cyclical because of our location.

Motion was made and seconded for approval of the Budgets for FY 2018. The ballots were passed out.

Both budgets overwhelmingly approved, with all in favor of with the exception of 1 vote against and 2 abstentions.

### **Closing Prayer**

Pastor Jacky expressed that she is personally drawn to the Covenant of Stanwich Church, crafted by those members, part of that “great cloud of witnesses” from hundreds of years ago. We read this covenant as the closing prayer.