

Congregational Church of South Dartmouth
Annual Meeting
Sunday, May 2, 2010

The annual meeting of the Congregational Church of South Dartmouth was held in the lowers social hall of the church immediately following the end of worship at the 10:00 service. All were invited to stay and attend the meeting with its primary purpose being to review accomplishments over the past year and off the congregation an opportunity to share the comments and ideas.

Paul Durland, church moderator, called the meeting to order at 11:20 am and began with a prayer. The agenda was as follows:

1. Acceptance of Annual Report

Paul presented the Annual Report which had been made available to all church members. He asked for a motion to accept which was made and seconded. The attending members voted unanimously to approve the report.

2. Recognition of vacating Chairpersons of Ministry Team

Paul shared that Jim Forbush, Dick Purdy and Susan McLaren are stepping down from their roles on their respective ministry teams. Margaret Forbush will continue on as Chair of Outreach. Brian Fernandes will take on the Property ministry. Paul requested a volunteer to chair the Communications ministry. At this time, no one expressed an interest. The position will remain open for the present time. **Motion was made and seconded to accept the list of Chairs as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.**

3. Vote to continue the suspension of the By Laws regarding the organizational structure of the church in regards to the Ministry groups. As per the discussion at the last Church Council meeting, the congregation was asked to continue the suspension of the bylaws until after a series of workshops to be held for the Church Council and congregation until the fall when a final structure will be proposed. Discussion ensued with the following comments:

- The Guild is feeling confused about who is responsible for what in regards to the role formerly held by the Board of Deacons. There is consensus among them that they would like to have Deacons back in the organizational structure. It was pointed out the Worship Ministry continues the same responsibilities as were previously held by Deacons;
- Another concern was raised about the new structure and lack of bylaws makes the process too vague as to who is responsible and accountable for specific roles (e.g. Junior Youth Fellowship director) (This point was reiterated several times during the discussion highlighting its importance.)
- Request to have Deacons back as they used to be;
- Concern about how to find out who was responsible for what Ministry, where do you find this information;

- Question was asked relating to the benefits of the new process as it was presented – have they been since its implementation (no specific answer was given);
- Point was raised that when this new process was presented to the congregation for a by law suspension, it was done with the intention that we would continue to rework and refine the process, that it was not a given that it would remain as begun;
- Comments made regarding nominating process – that as was hoped, people are not necessarily stepping up to the plate to join a ministry team;
- Comment made that Property ministry as it is today is able to get things done quicker and more efficiently than before. Point of disagreement was raised defending the previous process and that any and all tasks that were identified were handled with much skill and hard work;
- Point made that it is a great opportunity that someone can follow their “passion” vs. being nominated; feels like it has been an improvement but needs some tweaking;
- An example of communication not working effectively was raised regarding the whereabouts of the old wooden tables – when they were needed, they were no where to be found and no one was sure who to contact to find out (Dick Purdy accepted this responsibility);
- Comment made that those tables were heavy and dangerous and the decision was made to get rid of them – hoping that additional light weight tables would be purchased; also raised the positive point that things can get done quicker than before because the “layers of approval” are fewer, but in some respects we may have swung to far the other way, maybe we need to close some boundaries;
- Agreement to previous point was reiterated;
- Question asked if it were the term “Worship” ministry that was confusing to relate to the duties;
- Perhaps the new process has swung too much to the ambiguous from before; did feel that the language change to ministry makes us sound more like a church community/congregational;
- The intent of the change was not intended to change the purpose of the ministry work;
- Request was made that the comments and feedback from the congregation be collected and included before the workshop for the Church Council
- Additionally, there was a request that the congregation be kept apprised of the work of the Council as it goes along and that feedback be given so that in the fall when a proposal is made it reflects input from the congregation
- Comment made that the switch from a representative Council to an elected Council appears ready to be fine tuned.

Motion was made and seconded to continue the suspension of the By Laws regarding the organizational structure of Ministry groups. Motion was unanimously approved by those in attendance.

Reverend Will spoke to an idea he proposes having minutes of all Ministry meetings posted on a bulletin board in the church so that anyone could keep up to date with what's happening. Additionally, these minutes are also available on the church blog and website. It was asked of Reverend Will and Paul to announce when and where these meetings would take place as different ministries meet on different days and times. Reverend Will reiterated that we all need to take responsibility to stay in the loop. In regards to the nominating process, a ministry needs to be more proactive about who they would like to have serving on their ministry team.

After a closing prayer given by Paul Durland, a **motion was made and seconded to adjourn the Annual Meeting at 12:10 pm. Motion was unanimously approved.**

Respectfully submitted,
Cecelia Roberts
Church Clerk