

Cherry Log Christian Church
Congregational Meeting
Minutes
May 22, 2016

1. The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer by Jerry Johnson, Moderator at 9:35 AM

2. A quorum of 80 (plus one) was confirmed by Cathy Smith, Secretary.

Jerry announced that the printed agenda would be followed. There were no objections.

3. **Election of officers:** A printed listing of officers for the coming year was provided and Mac McRoberts was asked to report on the process of selecting officers, in the absence of Caroline Carder. He stated that the elder positions are difficult to fill. He reported that Caroline Carder, along with the other members of the nominating committee (Mac introduced those present) did a great job of calling and obtaining members for these positions. Vacancies still listed will be filled by the Board.

Jerry noted the process for nominating someone from the floor is that you need to name the person being replaced and name the person you are nominating. The person being nominated must also have agreed to serve before being nominated.

Jerry asked for further nominations. None were announced, a verbal vote was passed by voice (There is a quorum present).

Charles Walls asked for a printed complete list of officers serving. This is available on the Church website under the Board Site, 2016 roster.

4. **By Law Amendments:** By Laws are available on the Website in the members area. Attached are those with updated wording changes:

Jerry announced that the only amendments needing congregational approval are those having to do with the constitution or with the Board. Otherwise the Board can amend the by laws after introducing the amendment to the congregation.

Art. III, B, 2: Delete the wording "not to exceed two years"

Susan Pleasant asked if she has filled her two year term, could she then fill a another term? Sharon Meek feels the idea is to have a rotation.

Further discussion by Lynn Chapman stated that it is been done before.

Recommended wording change carried by a show of hands with no objections.

The succeeding amendments were posted at the required 10 day period and will be voted on by the Board. They are coming with a recommendation from the Board but the congregation has the opportunity to ask questions and comment.

Art. IV, A Adds a new fourth sentence, "officers filling unexpired terms will not be deemed to have served a full term". And, in the current fourth sentence, add the following word "consecutive" the word, "full". Jerry reminded the congregation that they could ask any questions. No questions were asked.

Art. IV, B, 4, e Jerry stated that **trends** in giving might be shared with limited consultation with leaders. This was brought up at a previous meeting and tabled due to discussion. A privacy task force chaired by Myra Kibler was established to examine the

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church's protection of privacy. Original wording has been simplified and made very direct. There should be the ability to share salient information from those seeing church offerings coming in with church officers. Jerry asked for discussion and reiterated that these will be voted on by the Board after discussion. Charles Walls expressed reservations about contributions and who should have the information that someone's giving has changed. Bob Lewis, the new chair of Stewardship stated we are not talking about individuals, but do need to know about trends. Insight is needed. Charles agreed that trends are fine. Jerry stated that the wording is for "trends". There was no further discussion.

Art. V, B 1 Legacy Foundation has been in existence since 2012. By-laws are amended to place chairperson of Legacy Partners under the Resource Ministry Council. There were no questions or comments.

Art. V, C, 2, b Provides for continuity of Vice chairs. Change in wording to "The Vice Chair will succeed the Ministry Chair after two years and will then serve as the Chair for the next two years or in the event of a vacancy in the office in addition to the partial year served filling the unexpired term in the event of a vacancy." Jane Carwell succeeded in mid term to chair. There were no comments or discussion.

Art. VI, B, 2, a Chairs are to be elected. Change in wording to, "Prepares a list of nominees to fill the offices of Elders, Deacons, Ministry Chairs, Church officers, Committee chairs, committee members with specified terms of office or designated as at-large in these by laws, delegates to the Regional and General Assemblies, and such other positions as called for in these By Laws, seeking to reflect the diversity of the Congregation in these nominees." There was no discussion.

Art. VI, B Brings Legacy Partners under the By Laws. It is an addition to the ByLaws. It gives the terms and number of years for members. There was no discussion

Jerry expressed appreciation for attention to these By Law changes and stated the Board would vote at the first opportunity, probably with in the next couple of weeks.

5. Bob Matthews, Chair of Finance, gave a brief view of the financial landscape. Tithes are down (17%) and budget is based on last year's numbers; there are fewer giving units, (14% below last year). On expense side, there are lower expenses, 12%, due to retroactive insurance credits. Net effect is that we are able to accommodate now, but in terms of going forward it is a concern.

Stewardship has come out to ask that giving units increase by 10% of their own tithe. On the expense side is the upcoming transition, we may be able to reduce costs in the short term, balancing by saving money during the transition. Real task is to look at increasing membership, and how we can do that. Discussion from the congregation noted discrepancy in reduction of tithes (17%) from last year and reduction of giving units (down only 14%). Darlene Fike clarified the request for a 10% increase is applied to what you are already giving.

Bob Lewis stressed that it is strictly a personal issue to increase tithe or giving. At this time of transition, it is important to keep the giving up.

We have done a lot to look at expenses and we are not seeing a lot of increases now.

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The issue of decreased giving in summer was raised, however Sharon Meek stated that giving is down in summer months due to travel. The issue of transition was addressed and also if members are gone during summer, we ask that members be sure to get regular offering to church office. Bob Matthews stated that this report was to give us a heads up on finances and that committees are working to accommodate these issues.

6. Jerry Johnson gave an overview of the transition as David and Jane Griffin leave, beginning with combining worship services on June 26 into one service at 10 AM, followed by a dinner. This marks the transition point.

One way that expenses over the summer may decrease until the intentional interim minister starts is that during that time there will be supply pastors. We have already received 7 resumes of Intentional Interim pastors. There is a meeting today of the search committee for the interim pastor. The length of stay typically for the interim may be 6-12 months or even 2 years. At this point we do not know who will be preaching during the summer. A question was asked about Robin preaching and Jerry responded that she may be invited. The Intentional Interim Minister will help in dealing with issues, turnaround, "not just preaching" and will be named by the Board. This interim will provide us with strong leadership. After the interim is in place, our minister search committee will go to work. They will be talking with the congregation and establishing profiles to provide to our denomination. It may be a year or longer before the congregation has a proposal for a Senior Pastor. The congregation does vote on the Senior Minister. Jerry asked for any questions.

There is a small group form being passed around now to sign for helping with small groups for discussion.

7. Ballots were asked to be turned in by anyone before leaving the meeting.

8. Jane Carwell reported from the Outreach Council. The Council is very busy and asking for volunteers to help with:

Garden for Others which benefits Fannin and Gllmer Food Pantries. Americorp helping.

Clothes Closet has an increase in business, so would love volunteers.

Quilts and shawls needs are growing, please come and help.

Food pantries will announce in June a new collection effort.

New mission from Kenya helping with houses and new emphasis on wells, coming after summer.

Sam Star trailer is now being used by Habitat for Humanity.

9. Bobbie Cherry-Discipling Council

Labyrinth Keepers will take donations to support what is going on with the labyrinth. Please contact Richard or Cindy.

Music Committee is now interviewing candidates for Director of Music at CLCC

Small Groups - Sally Pamplin distributing brochures in community of church happenings.

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Children's Education committee chaired by Georgia Meyers with many things going on and may be doing things throughout community such as Tower Road.

Adult Education Committee is needing a new chairperson. New class for summer to focus on relationship of Ecology and Theology

Membership Committee is checking with neighboring churches to determine how they handle membership, tracking visitors, and brochures.

History committee planned a wonderful Homecoming event last week.

Fellowship - Chaired by Tim Anderson, co chaired by Darlene.

10. Resource Council-Phil Slemons

Property Comm. - Parking lot is cracking, and will be resealed.

Energy report - Access areas need to be easier. Changes to Heating/Air needed to cut on peak usages.

Energy items - help being funded by Craddock Center sale proceeds.

Jerry adjourned the meeting with a blessing at 10:35 am.