**MINUTES FROM ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**CREEDE COMMUNITY CHURCH**

**FEBRUARY 12, 2023**

The Annual Congregational Meeting took place on Sunday, February 12, 2023, at Creede Community Church. Jamie McLeroy, Moderator, attended via Zoom. Lori Dooley, Trustee, welcomed everyone and called the annual meeting to order. A quorum was declared with 26 members and friends attending the meeting. The agenda for the meeting was as follows:

* 2022 Ministry Reports
* Present Proposed Amendments to Bylaws for Congregational Approval
* Present 2023 Budget for Congregational Approval
* Election of Officers and Incoming Deacons, Trustees and Ministry Leader
* Commissioning and Blessing Officers/Deacons/Trustees/Ministry Leaders

Approval of Minutes from the February 6, 2022, Annual Congregational Meeting

Linda Walker made a motion to approve the 2022 Annual Congregational Minutes. Jana Wilson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2022 Ministry Reports

Moderator – Jamie McLeroy

Jamie announced that everything was in good order including our financial standing. We welcomed new members who are actively involved in the church. We renewed and strengthened our ties to the community through several events. Recordkeeping and payroll functions have been brought up to date. Jamie looks forward to working with members and the church board in 2023.

Minister – Sarah Linn

Sarah expressed how wonderful it is to have had the opportunity to respond to the Spirit and be people of generosity and faithfulness. We are an expression of who God is. We are emerging from a challenging season and looking outward to our neighbors, including the marginalized in our community, with generosity and self giving.

Clerk – Leslie Dustin

Leslie shared that 13 new members were welcomed who are actively involved in the church. Three young people were confirmed, and four children were baptized. Leslie expressed appreciation to Linda Walker, Sarah Linn, and Millynn Teal for helping bring the recordkeeping up to date.

Trustees – Lori Dooley

Margaret Phillips was unable to attend, so Lori Dooley shared in her place. Lori referred to the trustees' report on page 6 of the annual report for details on what the trustees worked on during 2022. It has been a very good year and we are blessed to have received so many generous financial contributions. We were able to finish 2022 in a very strong financial position. Next year maintenance work and improvements on the parsonage are planned.

Deacons – Linda Walker

Linda thanked the great team of deacons: Carol Pierce, Creede Hargraves, Billy Fairchild, Scotty Lamb, Bethany Andre, and Linda Walker. She also thanked Debbie Whitmore, Jenny VanRy, and Johanna Gray for their terrific help with worship services. A highlight for the year was welcoming 13 new members during "Coffee with the Deacons" meetings. Linda shared that the deacons are here to serve. They pray for the congregation. It is an honor to serve.

Christian Life Education – Kate Michaels

Kate thanked the 2022 Sunday School volunteers: Debbie Whitmore, Linda Walker, Carol Pierce, Rita Odom, and Kate Michaels. She thanked Debbie Whitmore for teaching her the ropes and passing the torch. Our children's ministries continue to grow and develop. Welcome to the new volunteers: Michael & Michelle Meals, Brooke Ophoff, and Kristeen Lopez. We are still looking for more volunteers. All that's required is a quick background check, a safe church discussion, and then jump in. Please contact Kate if you are interested in volunteering.

Mission Outreach/Helping Hands – Lori Dooley/Jamie McLeroy

Lori referred to the Mission Outreach and Helping Hands report on page 9 of the annual report for details on 2022 accomplishments. The recent fundraiser for the Addison family raised over $4200 and we look forward to having Mission Dinners more often in 2023. This past year was a challenging one for many, but we were able to provide financial assistance to all community members who made requests.

Ladies Aid Society – Jenny VanRy

"God is good all the time. All the time God is good." Jenny mentioned several of the events that Ladies Aid sponsors during the year. The group continues to provide assistance in the community for such things as firewood, dental expenses, and oxygen to name a few. The group continues to be God’s hands and feet in the community.

Present Proposed Amendments to Bylaws for Congregational Approval

Jamie McLeroy explained the reasons for the proposed changes to the Bylaws. (1) Language defining the makeup of the church board is confusing. It says that the church board includes members of "standing committees" but "standing committees" is not defined. The new language specifies the committees by name and makes other clarifications. (2) The current church board is larger than typical and that makes it hard to get an accurate count of all people on the board and to get a quorum. The proposed change is to have the chairpersons or their designees represent (sub)boards and committees at church board meetings, rather than all the members of every ministry groups. (3) Language added to clarify the requirement that the pastor be a member in good standing of the UCC and the Rocky Mountain Conference.

The proposed amendments to the Bylaws and which sections are affected are given in Attachment 1 to the minutes, Proposed Amendments to Bylaws.

Jamie McLeroy motioned to approve the proposed amendments to the Bylaws. Jana Wilson seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Present 2023 Budget for Congregational Approval

Lori Dooley presented the 2023 Budget on behalf of the Trustees. Please see Attachment 2 to the minutes. The 2022 budget planned for $120,000 in pledges and open plate offerings with an additional $27,000 taken from savings to meet expenditures. We met our budget without drawing from savings at all (as was the case in 2021), and ended the year $15,800 in the black.

Because of this and noting that the average pledge/open plate giving over the last four years was $129,000, the trustees anticipate a $9,000 increase in giving over last year. This modest increase will allow for greater Mission/Outreach giving in 2023. Given our sizable reserves, the trustees are confident we will meet our budget and recommend congregational approval.

Tom Schrandt, Treasurer, shared that a Certificate of Deposit (CD) valued at $60,000 came due in December. The checking account balance was $111,390. It was decided to move $40,000 from checking to a new CD and reinvest the original CD for a total of $100,000 in three laddered CDs, which mature at different times.

Leslie Dustin motioned to approve the budget. Linda Walker seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Election of Officers and Incoming Deacons, Trustees, and Ministry Leaders

Sarah Linn expressed appreciation to the people coming off the board for their service: George Ameel, John Paysse, Creede Hargraves, David and Amanda Basler, and Leslie Dustin.

The slate of officers, deacons, trustees, and ministry leaders for 2023 was presented (see Attachment 3). Sarah Linn made a motion to accept the slate of 2023 nominees. Jana Wilson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioning & Blessing Officers/Deacons/Trustees/Ministry Leaders

Officers, deacons, trustees and ministry leaders were commissioned.

Jana Wilson made a motion, seconded by Millynn Teal, to close the meeting at 11:52 am. Sarah closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Dustin

Leslie Dustin, Clerk

Creede Community Church

Attachments: 1. Proposed Amendments to Bylaws

2. Proposed 2023 Budget

3. Slate of Officers, Trustees, Deacons and Ministry Teams for 2023

ATTACHMENT 1



**Article VI, Section B. 1. e.**  
Current language:  
  
"The Pastor shall give sixty (60) days notice of a desire for termination. Should the Pastor lose ministerial standing, relations between the Church and the Pastor shall cease at once. (While the term of the Pastor shall be indefinite, the Church may at any time, by a 2/3 majority vote, at a special meeting called for that purpose, request his/her resignation, with the expectation that it will be presented within sixty (60) days."  
  
Proposed change:  
  
In the second sentence, replace the words "Should the Pastor lose ministerial standing" with "Should the pastor lose ministerial standing with the Southeastern Association and the Rocky Mountain Conference, UCC"

ATTACHMENT 2



ATTACHMENT 3



**Ministry Teams, continued**

**Mission & Outreach/:** Bethany Andre, chair (2024)

**Helping Hands** Jamie McLeroy, Helping Hands (2024)

reports to the Board Jana Wilson (2024)

at least 5 members Doug Hammett-Lair (2025)

serving 2-year terms Linda Walker (2025)

open to more participants Margaret Phillips, Helping Hands

**Ladies Aid Society**: Jenny VanRy, president (2025)

officers serve 2-year terms Caitlin DiAntonio, secretary (2024)

reports to the Board Linda Walker, treasurer (2024)

as part of Mission/Outreach

**Sewing Sisters:** Sherrie Hosselkus

reports to Ladies Aid and friends

**Christian Life Education:** Kate Michaels, chair (Sunday School coordinator) (2024)

reports to Deacons; Linda Walker (2024)

at least 4 members Debbie Whitmore (2024)

serving 2-year terms Kristeen Lopez (2025)

open to more participants Michelle Meals (2025)

Lori Heinrich (youth ministries leader)

Michael Meals

Brooke Ophoff

**Safe Church Team:** Michele Schrandt, Trustee Representative

works with CLE; Debbie Whitmore, Member-at-Large

reports to Moderator Kate Michaels, Christian Ed Representative