

**Bethlehem United Church of Christ  
Congregational Meeting Minutes  
January 28, 2018**

Attendance 61 (Quorum is 25)

The meeting was called to order by President Sue Buday.

An opening prayer was offered by Pastor John Kennedy.

- **A motion to accept the agenda as distributed was approved.**
- **A motion to accept the minutes of the January 29, 2017 Congregational Meeting was approved.**
- **A motion to accept the minutes of the April 30, 2017 Special Congregational Meeting was approved.**
- **A motion to accept the minutes of the August 13, 2017 Special Congregational Meeting was approved with the correction of the spelling of Payeur in the last paragraph.**

**Nominating Committee** - Cresson Sloten, representing Della DiPietro, chair and member Kathy Warner thanked the effort and time of those leaving positions, Sue Buday-President, Jan Burnham-Member Care, Mike Haab-Cemetery Board, Paul Marshall-Cemetery Board, Jane Conlen-Finance and Isaac Wilcox-Youth. Cresson then presented the slate of nominations for open positions.

- **A motion to accept the slate of candidates as presented was approved.**

Sue Buday thanked those leaving offices and those coming on.

**Proposed General Operating Budget for 2018 -**

Jeff Wortman acknowledged the other members of the Finance Ministry team, Ken Tappe and Mike Haab. He then presented the proposed 2018 General Operating Budget.

Comments from the Congregation:

In the past there was an effort to tithe our offerings to outreach, this budget provides no outreach from offerings – Finance will take this into consideration, currently funds given to the church for outreach are being used for that purpose and this will challenge congregation to make up the difference. Pastor John and other members mentioned several examples of outreach not included in the outreach line item, including the Living Nativity.

An explanation of the McKay Funds was requested – The church receives the income from the funds. The principle does not belong to Bethlehem.

Along with praise for the great job Finance has done on the budget, it was pointed out that while expenses are greater than income, we have a way to cover the difference and therefore it is not actually a deficit budget.

It was suggested those not meeting their pledge be contacted. Another suggestion was, if pledges are often not met, it might be better to use a lesser amount for that income line in the budget.

Sue thanked Jeff and the Finance Team

- **A motion to accept the general operating budget for 2018 as presented was approved.**
- **A motion to adjourn the meeting was approved.**

**The meeting was closed with Lord's Prayer.**

Respectfully Submitted, Karen Samford, Secretary