

UNITY CHURCH OF RALEIGH (UCR)

2024 Annual Meeting MINUTES (June 9, 2024)

Approved at the June 1, 2025 Annual Meeting

NOTE: there were approximately 20 people in attendance for this meeting (to include current board members).

OPENING PRAYER

Rev Ellen started the meeting with an opening prayer.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Board President Clara Davis, welcomed everyone and officially called the meeting to order at 12:10 pm

Clara acknowledged this is the annual meeting, and shared we will be going back to review minutes from the previous year (June 11, 2023) and review what happened and what's next. First,

- Introduction of Trustees: Nitia Steward, Vice President, Laura Dearth, Treasurer, Annie Nelson, Secretary, Betty Sari, is our member at large but she couldn't make it today, and Rev Ellen.

Everyone should have a copy of the agenda, which was on their chairs. The meeting will include the election of one new board member, and one member extension, including the nominating committee for 2023, the state of the minister's report; the financial report, team reports and time for questions and answers. Here's how this is going to work:

- We're going to take a look at the by-laws and only members of the church have the right to speak at this meeting. However, someone can make a motion, to allow all the attendees to speak.
 - Do I hear a motion from the floor, to allow for both members and non-members to speak at this meeting. Nancy Davison made the motion. Kathy Pellegrino seconded.

AYES: ALL PRESENT

NAYES: 0

Clara stated that everyone has a voice in this meeting but remember only the members may vote. Now time for approval of our 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes, so I'll now turn this meeting over to our board Secretary, Annie Nelson.

BOARD MEMBER REQUIREMENTS & ELECTIONS

Secretary Annie Nelson noted she is recording this meeting to be transcribed later for the record.

Annie read the Election of the Board member according to the Bylaws are: she read Article 6. Section 2a and noted that we have two nominees for the board.

Annei stated that currently we have Andy Anderson returning to our board, after an extended absence (about a year), due to personal reasons, and Andy is returning to take on the role of Treasurer.

This will be a "new" 3-year term for Andy, so that's why we need your vote on this. So welcome back Andy. We have another candidate, and if elected, this will bring our board membership to seven (similar to how it was in the past).

Laura Dearth is the current board member leaving us after serving two 3-year terms. And the new candidate on the slate up for election is Elaine Caldwell. She had a high school reunion, so she is not present here today.

The Robert's Rules dictate, that I invite nominations from the floor. Are there any nominations from the floor? No?

Ok, hearing none, let's put the slate of candidates to a vote. Is there a motion from the floor to accept the slate of candidates to the board. Mary Butler made the motion to accept the slate of candidates for the board. Kathy Pellegrino seconded the motion.

Can I get a show of hands from all the members who wish to vote Yes.

AYES: Majority

NAYES: 0

No one on Zoom, so no need to consider that.

ELECTION OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Also, we have the election for the Nominating Committee 2024 and 2025; that would be myself (Annie Nelson), Nancy Davidson and Rev Ellen. We served on this nomination committee 2024 and have volunteered for next year. Is there a motion to accept the names put forth. Laura objected, saying she did not see a name on the ballot form for the “floor nominee.” Annie clarified that it is Nancy Davidson, is present here today, and has agreed to be the floor nominee.

Can I get a motion to approve the three candidates, myself, Rev Ellen and Nancy Davidson to the nominating committee? Melanie Raskin made a motion to approve the slate. Susan Riggs seconded.

Can we now vote with a show of hands for all who agree with this motion. The motion was approved by a show of hands.

AYES: Majority

NAYES: 0

Annie stated we have now completed the elections for the two new board members and new nominating committee members. Thank you everybody. I now turn it back over to our President, Clara.

Clara, thanked everyone for their participation and thanked the nominating committee, Nancy Davidson, Rev Ellen, and board member Annie Nelson, for their wonderful work in getting this done.

STATE OF MINISTRY & MINISTER’S REPORT

Clara asked all to acknowledge what a great job Rev Ellen is doing with our church, and turned the mic over to Rev Ellen.

Rev Ellen shared that at the end of 2022 we did a brain storming/strategy session and developed a prosperity plan; out of that it was decided to do quarterly fund raisers. So between tithing and 3-G giving we, as a church, could plan and depend on that support. We also had hearts and unity

fund raiser, the summer raffle and the yard sale. The combination of these and the 3-G giving has kept us fluid for the whole year.

Now our calendar year is June to June, so let's talk a little bit about this past year. Many of you know that we have another church using our space here, and are paying us rent, and we have other rental income, like the blood drive, the teenage program, and we will continue to do fund raisers – and I'm hoping we will look at new types of things to do that will raise our fund raising to a new level.

Khaliah as our office manager is really on top of everything; admin support, social media and coordinating all the rental stuff. Rev Ellen shared that she is thinking of scheduling a consultation with a marketing person, recommended to her from another church friend, where their church is growing due to the exposure his work has done for their church.

So where are we going? More fundraising and more social media because that is where we are today. It's the way people are communicating, and we have to meet them where they are.

The other things we're doing is ongoing classes, workshops, and some people are talking to me about how they can bring new leadership into the church to compliment what we're doing in here.

We have wonderful participation when we did our core vision workshop w/Rev Matha Creed: and now at our Homecoming, we will be unveiling three banners created with our core value, vision, and mission statement on them, to be hung on our wall here. An anonymous donor has paid for these banners, so we're grateful. And in creating the banners, we now has what's called our "branding materials" (church logo and signage), so as we move forward to buy other signage like a Welcome/Unity flag to post outside of church, the cost will be less.

It hasn't been easy. I came here in 2020 and things were closed down; we were meeting here with about 10 people --- and look how many members we have today, including younger people. So it's exciting that we have this cross range of people now in our church. We have to show up for each other.

Also, note that we're adding a potluck the first Sunday of every month, to socialize and help build our community. NOTE: because of today's meeting, we pushed this month's team meeting to the 23rd

We've been putting our weekly group meetings on Meetup and we have several new people joining us for these book discussions -- and one of the new people is a guy joining us on Zoom from Uganda (he actually lives in Uganda), one from Baltimore. The thing is we're staying consistent and we're seeing results. And as long as we stay in faith, we will continue to grow and evolve. And that concludes the minister's report.

PRESENTATION OF 2023 MINUTES

After the Minister's report, Secretary Annie Nelson asked to be heard, and apologized for getting things out of order, but she forgot to get the vote of approval the 2023 annual meeting minutes. She confirmed everyone had a copy of last year's minutes in their handout and requested we take a few minutes to review them (PAUSE) Any questions/comments?

Can I get a motion to approve the 2023 Annual Meeting minutes? Andy Anderson motioned to approve the minutes. Kathy Jones seconded. The motion was approved by a show of hands.

FINANCE REPORT

Laura Dearth referenced the financial report in everyone's packet; Profit & Loss statement shows that the numbers from where we were the previous year and how we've improved. Our income jumped from \$136K last year to **\$150K this year**. Part of that is \$1,500 more in tithes & offerings and \$5K more income from rentals; fund raising was \$4,050 more and there was some restricted contributions, which are for specific use, that came in that all has increased our income by \$13,784.

For the expenses we have stayed very steady. Last year was \$130,630 and this year we're at \$128,923, so keeping expenses in line helps.

Want to point out on that page, the net income was \$21K, but our cash flow is different. Because when we make mortgage payments, part of it goes to pay down the mortgage (principal), but the interest is considered

an expense. So, it's hard to see the cash flow on this P&L statement, because of that, this shows what the principal paydown was --- but net profit was \$1,664. So income even though our income was up \$15K, but net cash (what we have in the bank) was increased by \$1,664. Are there any questions? Andy asked, "on the mortgage, is that the payment?" Laura said yes, that is the principal payment, which shows up on our balance sheet, because we are paying down our mortgage. It's a regular monthly payment (principal & interest). Alan asked how much our monthly mortgage is. Laura said it's a little over \$3K (around \$3,200). We pay our insurance separate. Any other questions on P&L statement? (no)

Laura then went to the balance sheet which shows \$7,123 this year which is \$2,114 more than this time last year. Mortgage is under long-term liability.

Last year we were question about when the last time we've had an audit. We have not had an audit in many years. It's not required by our by-laws, but we talked about it, and we had a congregant who paid for an accountant to do a financial review to ensure our book are in good order and accurate. The accountant had some good recommendations for us, and didn't really tell us anything we didn't know. Mainly that we need to increase our income stream, so that can we build up our reserves to take care of our building and any other unexpected expenses.

Also, from our survey results, there were some questions about "why the fundraising" and now we know we need the fundraising; to help our streams of income of which fundraising is a big piece. Laura stated that we recognize what we need to do and moving forward, she sees next year being better.

Andy Anderson made the motion the financial report be accepted as noted. Melanie Raskin seconded. The motion was approved by a show of hands.

AYES: ALL

NAYES: 0

Clara Davis, President of the Board acknowledged that we're a small church and a mighty church that's growing. You the congregants should give yourselves a pat on the back, because you're doing a great job in financially supporting this small church, creating us good financial footing.

TEAM REPORTS

Hospitality Team: Melanie solicited for someone to sign up for Hospitality Caring Hearts (see her)

Prayer Ministry: Melanie noted that over 26 weeks, we've had 188 prayer request (average 7 a week). Monthly prayer meeting first Thursday of every month, and everyone is invited to attend (average 4-12 people attend). She then gave us an overview of the the type of prayers and the process.

Caring Hearts Team: write cards to those in need. See her if you wish to join this team. Card, meals, and phone calls. Need to reenergize this team.

Platform Team: many thanks to Nancy, Mary, Betty, Annie and I do a great job supporting Rev Ellen.,

Hospitality Team: Bonnie, Laura, Mary Jane, Janet, Helen and I support that team as well. First Sunday potluck, so stay tuned for that.

Music/Sound Team: Greg thanked all the volunteers for helping keep UCR doors open and for your input. See him directly if you have any ideas or suggestions.

Our sound team is Mary Butler, Bob Casey, Gary Evans and Melanie Raskin; each week making sure our light and audio quality that our services demand.

The video team is Al Henderson, Anne Kingston-Smith, Kath Pellegrino, and Karol Turner. They are responsible for running the camera and live stream coverage.

Live streaming team consist of Emily Dearth Quinn Whitley and Sharon Shedan. Quinn will be leaving, so our office manager Khaliah will be stepping in.

Band members are Susan Riggs, Alan Smith, Peggy King, Nitia Steward and Annie Kingston-Smith and Karol Turner also make valuable contributions to the Ah-ha band. Our goal is to bring uplifting and enlightening music to each service. Thank you all.

Rev Ellen acknowledges the Ah-Ha band for supporting three ;

Core Team: Nita reported she has taken over for Sharon and last year we baselined everything. The P&J in July and Food drive for the VA, and card drive we'll look forward to that (Nov/Dec) and Blood drive coming up. We also will continue to have the clothes drive, for Karol continues to work in non-profit and she will let us know when opportunity comes up for that. Also connected the Encouraging Place ministry for disenfranchise families; Clara is meeting with them to see opportunities there. There will not be a yard sale this year, so stay tuned to see what coming up.

Buildings & Grounds: Mary Butler reported that she and Sharon share this role and maintain the flowerpots out front. Welcome help with watering the plants twice a week.

Rev Ellen noted that Sharon Shedan is also the facilities manager and is here on Saturdays and whenever she is needed. She is still very involved.

Fundraising Team: Betty was not in attendance at this meeting but did send in her report which was read by Melanie. Betty wants to thank Nitia and Greg for the music services you provide them; and please sign up for the Home Coming that's scheduled in a couple of weeks. Thanked all those who continue to support her on these events. Many thanks to Laura, and Mary for welcoming and entertaing th e children.

Clara Davis, President of the Board said she would like to recognize and give a special thank you to our outgoing board member Laura.

QUESTIONS & ANSWER TIME In closing Clara asked if there were any questions, comments, jokes before we close. Ok, we're at the end of our

meeting, can I get a motion to close this meeting? Peggy King motion and Andy Anderson seconded. The motion was approved by a show of hands.

This meeting stands adjourned, as Rev Ellen close us out in prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 1pm