

## 2019 Church Conference Minutes

November 24, 2019

Church Conference Attendance: (42 in attendance):

Bill Stephens, Pamala Stephens, Janet Hilton, Terry Hilton, Marty Gravesen, Scott Miedema, Bruce Engstrand, Linda Morrissey, Bob Cheal, Penelope Hunt, Mere Ponijiasi, Pat Hannon, Meri Nabou, Jennifer Dornbush, Samuel Cox, Su Rood Cox, Sarah Rhodes, Charles Rhodes, Bill Dornbush, Lynne Garrison, Heather Young, Jane Hollar, Naomi Niimi, Barbara Wofford, Larry Wofford, Norm Hardin, Karen Hardin, Norm Bryan, Cathie Bryan, Mike Ferrel, Chris Bowen, Peg Ferrel, Isimeli Radrodro, Nancy Messinger, Diane Jackson, Andrea Davis, David Turner, Andrea Turner, April Nichols, Elizabeth Walton, Lindsey Bell-Kerr, Lori Sawdon.

**Welcome and Opening Prayer** - Pastor Laurie Bayen opened the meeting at 2 pm. Pastor Lindsey opened with prayer.

**Membership Report** - Linda Morrissey. Computer database had not been thoroughly updated since Connie Bergquist's work. See the attached report for full details. Membership Church Conference 2019 counted (793). Professing members removed (82). Please contact Linda Morrissey with any information you may have regarding the "Inactive Members that we Wish to Contact" list. Lori offered a prayer for those who have passed on in the past year.

**Report of the Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development** - Pastor Lori Sawdon presented the Leadership 2020 report. See the attached report for full details. Pastor Lori stated, "I move that the secretary cast a ballot favoring the nominees for the Board of Trustees and that the secretary note in the minutes that the nominees were elected by ballot." Elected by Ballot 36 Yes votes, 1 abstention.

Jennifer Dornbush and Bill Dornbush representing Outreach and Service were missed off of the list of Church Council representatives on the leadership team report. They are added at this time.

Pastor Laurie Bayen invited a vote accepting the leadership team report. The report was approved by unanimous voice vote.

**Pastoral Compensations 2020** - Naomi Niimi presented the following motions:

**Staff Parish Relations Committee Salary Motions for 2020 Charge Conference for Pastor Lindsey Bell-Kerr (One-half Time)**

**First Motion:** I move that Pastor Lindsey Bell-Kerr receive an annual compensation for the year 2020 of \$40,220.00 (line 13), amounts designated as follows: Cash salary of \$25,870.00 (line 5) of which \$300.00 (line 6) is designated as tax deferred; housing allowance of \$12,250.00 (line 10); and utilities \$2,100.00 (line 11). Unanimously approved by voice vote.

**Second Motion:** I move that Pastor Lindsey Bell-Kerr be provided with health insurance premiums,

pension and benefit expense, and accountable reimbursements as indicated on lines 14, 15, and 17. Unanimously approved by voice vote.

**Staff Parish Relations Committee Salary Motions for 2020 Charge Conference for Pastor Lori Sawdon (Full Time)**

**First Motion:** I move that Pastor Lori Sawdon receive an annual compensation for the year 2020 of \$113,846.00 (line 13) amounts designated as follows: Cash salary \$81,646.00 (line 5) of which \$3,000.00 (line 6) is designated as tax deferred; individual health care insurance of \$18,020.00 (line 5a in lieu of line 14); housing allowance of \$28,000.00 (line 10); and Utilities \$4,200.00 (line 11). Unanimously approved by voice vote.

**Second Motion:** I move that it be further resolved that up to \$17,250.00 (line 7) of approved cash salary be designated as an allowance for furnishings and other costs directly related to providing a home, as detailed on the form "Certification of Housing Allowance Payments." Unanimously approved by voice vote.

**Third Motion:** I move that Pastor Lori Sawdon be provided with pension and benefit expense, and accountable reimbursements as indicated on lines 15 and 17. Unanimously approved by voice vote.

**Renewal of Lay Servant** - Mere Nabou testified about the Warming Heart ministries that they are doing each day to assist the homeless community. She considers them to be her family. Coffee in the morning, service of dinners at the Spirit Cafe and Nomadic Shelter in the winter months is of her ministries. These are all things that touch our hearts here at the church. She spoke on discipleship and encouraged all of us to reach out with a smile and embracing God's touch. Empowering us with strength to help others. We connect through faith in God. Pastor Laurie B asked that we approve her continuation as a Lay Servant. Hallelujah in approval was raised by all!

**Volunteers in Mission Report/Slideshow** - the slideshow was presented and written report is attached in our full packet.

**Discernment Process and Team** - Pastor Lori Sawdon. The church council approved the Discernment Process team formation at the July meeting. The reason for the process is included in the attached report. Sonda Anderson has been added to the Discernment team as listed. They will be meeting twice per month starting in January. They are working to answer three questions: Who are we? What is God calling us to be and do? Who is my neighbor? They seek direction from the Holy Spirit on these critical issues for the church as we move forward. The process will invite congregational input at a time TBD and prayers are welcome now.

**Written Reports** - Reports from all of the committees are available today in writing. Most committee reports are also online at [fumcsantarosa.org](http://fumcsantarosa.org) for your review. A binder will be in the church office with all the reports.

**Good news!** Pastor Lori Sawdon reported that the church recently received \$10,000 from the Beulah

Grant for the hiring of a senior ministries staff member.

**Blessing** - Pastor Laurie Bayen closed the meeting with words from "Looking Back with Thanks" and a blessing.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Bob Cheal, sitting in for Anne Sekara.*