**Riverside Community Church**

**Annual Congregational Meeting**

**January 27, 2019**

**Call to Order:** Moderator MollyFauth. Quorum established.

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Vicky Stifter

**Agenda:** Donna McCoymotioned and Michael McElwee seconded. Accepted as presented.

**Minutes from 2018:** Michael McElwee motioned and Leonard Wood seconded. Accepted as presented.

**Moderator’s Message:** Moderator Molly Fauth reported that during 2018 we become an Immigrant Welcoming Church, we had record attendance at Camp Adams, we hosted the Hood River Warming Shelter, and an active community partner. She expressed her appreciation for this congregation. Report filed in 2018 Annual report.

**Elaine’s Slide Show:** the slideshow highlighted many of the ministries and youth activities that Riverside participated in during 2018.

**Thanks to our Board Chairs by Molly Fauth:**

Sandy Spellecy - Justice & Witness

Karen Jones – Diaconate

Kim Vogel – Finance & Development

**Feedback from small groups:**

1. **Pastor/Diaconate/Music & Arts**

We loved the music diversity and less formal music groups and instruments that bless our services. Visual art has enhanced our worship experience at Riverside this year. Ann Harris and Kirby Neumann-Rea volunteered to work with a group to bring a projector to the sanctuary.

Music and visual diversity appreciated. Preparing our hearts/meditative portion of our service is important to all of us. Meditative experience, excellent music presentation, Vicky’s simple and uncluttered messages along with her vignettes.

Music as a form of mediation. Children’s choir, and how Vicky and Elaine engage kids to find their confidence through expression, poetry, and music. The opportunities for the children, training, field trips, and volunteerism.

Music is invitational to the community and helps them feel that this is their church during Advent and they come to share in Riverside’s music.

An extraordinary gift of organist/pianist Diana Beterbide, Tim Mayer, and all of our choirs. We are grateful and happy with all that we have here including this view from the Riverview Room.

The archives in July 1969 showed the organ being installed at

Silence before church during the Christmas Season, local art on the walls and bulletins

Diversity of thoughts on the pastor’s messages don’t shy away from difficult topics. It was also nice to have the congregation’s input/reflections after the pastor’s message.

We are grateful to the expansion to include art along with the music here at Riverside.

Diaconate - appreciative to the change to groups for hospitality

**b) Christian Nurture: (Item’s in bold were mentioned by more than one group)**

We appreciate the cookies the youth provided to the warming shelter, Fish Food Bank – the kids volunteer one day a week during Riverside’s rotation, **OWL and how it has grown and spilled over into the community**, participation in **WYRE**, **the youth’s willingness to share in worship reading and writing their poems and prayers**, youth’s inclusion in communion, lighting of the candles, etc. **Youth fundraising**: lilies, poinsettias, and hot dogs.

The Easter service had 48 children present and 45 sang in the children’s choir that day.

Camp Adams is still a special place for those youth that have grown up and may not currently attend church.

**We love Elaine! The children’s ministry enriches our community.**

We should ask the kids what’s most meaningful to them. We would like to see the children upstairs more often, possibly once a month and serving on some of the boards.

How can we as a congregation support Elaine and our leaders to benefit Christian Nurture?

One of the directives that came out of our leadership meeting was the creation of an OWL advisory team which has met twice to assist Elaine in the growth of the OWL program.

Last year one of the directives to council was more activities for young adults – Maza Brady has created the Gorge is my Church.

**Earth Camp** – Percy Manser art walk was mentioned as it applies to connecting our youth and Riverside with Hood River.

Caroling activity – loved by all.

Justice and Witness has designated two POP offerings during 2019 dedicated to youth funding.

**c) Justice & Witness/Building & Maintenance: (Item’s in bold were mentioned by more than one group)**

We are the church that tackles tough topics. Less emphasis at Riverside on what each of us believes spirituality versus what we can do to help others.

**Front porch ministries are accessible and welcoming and give people the opportunity to give back and engage with others.**

**Warming Shelter**

Adopt a Dog concert

Small businesses using the kitchen

AA groups

Riverside is a welcoming church even before we were officially open and affirming.

**Hope and Life church** worships here each week.

Seeing the reporting of where all of our pockets of plenty donations (phone cards, FISH) go to benefit our community. This should be publicized internally (bulletin, newsletter) and to the wider community of Hood River. Mission Bulletin Board in the Riverview room to display and define the Pockets of Plenty offerings.

Pastor’s discretionary fund – should the name be changed to reflect what’s happening with the money?

We are a synergistic building – part of the energy.

Climate action network and community gathering place.

$3,000 raised for the Schuepback/Merz special offering fund.

We need to find a way to improve the accountability of all of those that use this church as the de facto community center of Hood River. Loving our church, but not loving it to death.

Riverside is the church for those of that don’t go to church.

**Thanks to Building Maintenance and special thanks to Joe and Lorre for all of their hard work.**

**Financial Reports – Doug Roof**

We finished the year with $24,000 in the black. Some luck involved: Special thanks to The Lake family foundation donated $10,000 to Riverside last year and to the many others in the congregation that stepped up and gave donations to cover needed upkeep and repairs. UCC changed when the pastoral benefits are processed so that we didn’t have to make a payment in the last quarter of 2018. We have set aside money for the carpet cleaner, but it hasn’t been purchased yet.

We set up a capital fund this year with $5,000 from the Lake foundation donation.

New building maintenance discretionary fund established.

We can’t ignore this building when budgeting.

Income Uncertainties for 2019

1. The warming shelter is looking for a more suitable space, so the rent we receive monthly will go away if they move.
2. Income for use of the kitchen has doubled and somehow Lorre and Joe are still smiling. This building produces significant amount of revenue, but it also produces a significant amount of wear and tear on our building.
3. Fundraising – many of our faithful fundraising volunteers have burned out, so we need volunteers to step up for 2019!

The endowment fund – 4.5 % taken each year (20,000-24,000) Last year the congregation passed a motion giving the option to take an additional .5 % from the fund which was not taken during 2018.

**Planned Giving** – We are planning to hold a seminar on this topic during 2019.

**Acceptance of Board and Committee Reports**

Donna McCoy motioned that we accepted them with the change to the budget comparison as noted below. Kim Vogel seconded. Motion passed by congregation.

One change to Budget Comparison on page 21 of the 2018 Annual Report under property maintenance the total incorrectly states Total Pastoral Leadership instead of Total Property Maintenance.

**Presentation/Adopted of the Budget for 2019**:

Kim Vogel motioned that the budget be accepted as proposed. Michael McElwee seconded. Motion passed by congregation.

**Nominations and Election of Leadership:**

Changes to Nominating Worksheet:

Christian Nurture – replace Alison Betzing with Jo Herring

Music & Arts – add Sheila Dale to 2020

Pastoral Relations – remove Gail Lyon

Building & Maintenance – replace Doug Roof with Michael McElwee and add Paul Thompson (after confirmation from him)

Communications – add David Skakel

Sandy Spellecy motioned to accept Board nominations as amended. Kirby Neumann-Rea seconded. Motion passed by congregation.

**Appointment of RCC Representatives to Gorge Ecumenical Ministries (GEM):**

Vicky recommend these representatives: Nancy Pavlenko, JoAnn Ewing, and Vicky Stifter. Molly Fauth motioned to accept and Doug Roof seconded. Motion passed.

**Directives to Council:**

Joyce Jennings - Confirmation classes for our youth & recognize and look for ways to expand our mission as members of the wider UCC family of churches

Ann Harris - Projector for the sanctuary

Kim Vogel & Kirby Neumann-Rea - Inside lift work needs to be completed in 2019

Leonard Wood – continued participation in Climate Change & Justice & Witness

Kirby Neumann-Rea – Recognize the name change from the Pioneer Room to Riverview room, and he would like the Manser wall to remain the same. He would also like to see accountability for adverse wear and tear of our building.

Molly Fauth – Get communications team going

**Raffle – 55 groups used our church in 2018**

**26 instruments played in 2018 not counting Advent series**

**24 youth activities and service projects supported by our youth**

**77 pledges for 2019 and $2,198 average pledge amount**

**Winners: Donna McCoy, Karen Harding, & Judy Schock**

**Closing Prayer:** Delivered by Pastor Vicky Stifter

**Meeting adjourned at 2:12**