

Friends Congregational Church-United Church of Christ
Congregational Meeting
December 8, 2019

- I. The meeting was called to order by Kelly Wellman, Moderator, at 11:57. There were 58 members signed in attendance which established a quorum. A prayer was given by Trent Williams, Associate Pastor.

- II. **Cady Engler moved and Bryce Ratcliffe seconded the motion that the minutes from the previous Congregational Meeting (October 20, 2019) be approved as submitted. Motion carried.**

- III. Proposed Vision Statement, Mission Statement, and Core Values were presented by Dwight Baker, Chair of the Visioning team. He reminded us that part of the 40th Anniversary of Friends celebration was to look back at our history as well as to look forward for the next 5-10 years. Steps that were undertaken as part of the process included:
 - Engaging a planning facilitator
 - Holding open discussions (April 2019)
 - Identifying a Writing Team (May 2019)
 - Defining purpose and scope
 - Providing drafts and getting feedbackThe Recommendations of the Writing Team were:
 - Adopt revised Vision & Mission Statement
 - Adopt new Core Values Statement
 - Use the new Vision & Mission Statement and Core Values Statement to guide us

Refer to attached proposed Vision Statement, Mission Statement, & Core Values (attached): Dwight presented that Proposed New Versions of the new statements. Discussion followed.

Discussion on Vision Statement, Mission Statement, & Core Values:

Ed White said that he was confused by the term “radical” used in the Vision Statement. Kate Shafer asked if the writing team had looked up the word *radical*. Indeed, the team had looked up *radical* and had had extensive discussion about the word according to Dwight. Bryce Ratcliffe stated that *radical* is a transformative inclusion. Barbara Heath said that using the term *radical* would keep people at arm’s length. Andy Tag said that long-term members have worn the mantle of *radical* in this community for a number of years. When we voted to become Open and Affirming, we were way ahead of our time Sue Ambrus offered. Brian Blake suggested that we are taking *radical* out of context—we are radical in our acceptance of lepers and people who are different in some way. Linda Coats pointed out that—people know where to come when they feel excluded.

The question was called. **Kate Kiernat moved that we accept the Vision Statement as submitted. Eli Vasquez seconded the motion.** There was further discussion with Kate Shafer

stating that “God is not *radical*, he is steady.” **The vote was taken and passed with 2 dissenting votes.**

Eli Vasquez moved and Barbara Heath seconded the motion that Friends church adopt the revised Mission Statement. Motion carried with 3 dissenting votes.

Cady Engler moved and Linda Coats seconded the motion that we accept the Core Values as presented. Motion carried with 4 dissenting votes.

IV. Kelly Wellman presented the proposed Statement of Faith. Some of the additional expenses included:

- Higher level of health insurance for Trent.
- Technology enhancements
- Accessibility improvements—including ramp to front of building
- Worship service equity

Kelly pointed out that some savings had been found in the following areas:

- Removal of one phone line.
- Salary savings for absence of administrative assistant

Donation Income anticipated:

Pledged	\$328,996
Offering	<u>112,450</u>
Total	441,446

16% growth in number of new members

17% increased projected revenue

12% increase in projected operational expenses

3% decrease in giving units

Kathy Langlotz offered support for removing the approximate \$17,000 of excess revenue and \$17,000 of excess expense related to the pastor’s health insurance premiums. She allowed that this would create a budget that more closely reflected the best forecast of revenue and expense for the budget year.

Elizabeth Vasquez moved and Kathy Langlotz seconded the motion that we accept the proposed Statement of Faith. Motion carried.

V. There was no New Business.

VI. **Sue Ambrus moved that we adjourn the meeting.** Meeting was adjourned at 1:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Wehrly
Council Secretary

Friends Congregational Church – United Church of Christ College Station, Texas

Proposed New Versions *(Draft for presentation at Congregational Meeting on December 8)*:

Vision Statement

Rooted in the way of Christ, we strive to be a community of God's radical inclusion and extravagant welcome.

Mission Statement

United by the example of Jesus, we live faithfully, love limitlessly, and serve boldly.

Core Values

- † **Spirituality** – We offer nurturing guidance to all to know God and love others; We seek to encourage a deeper spirituality for all; We affirm all spiritual journeys and offer worship experiences open to everyone; We apply the teachings of Jesus to the practice of our daily lives
- † **Inclusivity and Affirmation** – We embrace every person as a child of God, inviting all to participate fully in the life and mission of our Congregation without exception; We celebrate and affirm the diversity of human gifts; We choose love and respect always
- † **Community** – We proclaim as an embodiment of Christ, we are siblings of the same family; We seek to develop relationships among our members, our local neighbors, and the global community; We choose empathy, generosity, dignity, respect, trust and love to guide our relationships
- † **Justice** – We courageously work towards and stand for social justice; We are relentless in identifying inequity and injustice, boldly taking action to demonstrate our spiritual commitment; We must serve and not wait to be served
- † **Stewardship** – We act as stewards of all God's creation; We share our earthly and spiritual resources; We passionately work to preserve the global environment for future generations