**Minutes of the 84th OCC Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 22, 2023**

Forty participants met in the OCC sanctuary for the Annual Meeting (that was also live streamed). Moderator Anne Barr called the meeting to order at 11:15 am. Reverend Elizabeth Robinson provided an opening prayer and Anne reviewed the agenda. Anne mentioned the Annual Report is available on the church website (link already sent out).

The minutes of the 83rd Annual Meeting, January 23, 2022, were moved and approved.

**Budget Review and Approval:** Lani Shepp reviewed the budget summary handout which included 2022 “actuals.” We came out ahead by $10,000 over expenses because we didn’t do everything that was budgeted and we used Next 80 funds, where appropriate, in lieu of the B&G budget funds. The 2023 budget now includes a Council recommendation for a 4% increase for our two staff people instead of the 2.5% in recent versions. The $24,444 in “other (cash)” is a balancing figure; we have this money in the bank. We’ve been very frugal and that’s why we came out ahead. This is a very conservative budget. The congregation unanimously moved and approved to accept the budget for 2023. Anne Barr thanked our financial team (Lani Shepp, Kathi Kling, and Gail Mead) for their hard work.

**Moderator’s Comments and Report:**  Anne Barr reflected on her first year as Moderator. There were a lot of admin changes in 2022 due to legal and environmental issues. AB-506 brought training and finger printing for adults working with youth. Leslie O’Brien left her youth leadership position which affected our youth program. The Boy Scout reorganization caused more changes as we’re no longer their charter organization although we continue to house and support them like we do Holden and TOPS. We piloted and provided support for our pastor and congregation. We looked at what was needed and provided people to help with security, sermons, and grief support. We were able to revitalize a number of our ministries including Worship & Music, LL&S, and M&J. We received lots of thank you notes from those we helped in our community. Anne is inspired by all this support from the congregation and thanked them. During the pandemic we suspended honoring a volunteer each year so we now recognized two, Nancy Thursby and Mike Kersten. Nancy for her work with food banks, creation justice, hand bells and M&J. And doing it all with a smile, deep enthusiasm, commitment, and energy. She really helped moved things forward. Mike for his ushering duties, gardening skills, wisdom, and contributions on several committees. Reverend Elizabeth Robinson added she is grateful for all of the congregants who give so much of their time and expertise.

**Pastor’s Comments and Report:** Reverend Elizabeth Robinson mentioned we had some transitions. We lost some dear members and recognized the need for our Grief Support Group led by Gillian Murphy Stephans. Elizabeth commended those working on Vista Verde to get additional community housing. We were also able to use our empty cottage to house Lucina and Lucas. Along with Winter Nights and Common Hope our efforts are comprehensive in helping people in need of housing. All this is ongoing and is a deeply good thing. One of the great joys was having the choir performing again and having our ongoing groups deepen their productivity. We invigorated our Worship and Music Committee. People are finding us via our groups and services; we’re opening our doors to others. Elizabeth is optimistic that we are the best us that we can be. We have stabilized the church and we are a perfect size. She feels the love of the congregation and hopes the congregation feels her love, too.

Anne Barr introduced Jeanne Samuelsen, PRC Chair, who relayed that Reverend Elizabeth was recently nominated for a Pushcart prize and won. This is an amazing award honoring stories, poems, and essays from dozens of small presses. PRC is donating a copy of the book “The Pushcart Prize XLVI Best of the Small Presses 2022 Edition” containing Elizabeth’s selection.

**Approval to Waive Term Limits:** Anne Barr reported we have some term limits in our bylaws and our membership is smaller now. If we enforce the current limits we may have trouble in some key spots. During 2023 we’ll review the term limits to see what’s important. Today, however, we’re asking the congregation to waive the term limits so we can nominate/approve the current slate of officers and volunteers. Mike Kersten mentioned there are only five positions with term limits in the bylaws: Moderator, Vice Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, and Financial secretary. We’ve been ignoring term limits for the last three of these positions for years.

Per Anne, the Council just wanted the congregation to know about this. We need stability in these three positions and the Governance Committee will take a look at this during 2023. The congregation moved and approved waiving the term limits for these three positions for the year while we work on the bylaws. Mike Kersten volunteered to work on this bylaws issue.

**Nomination and Election of Church Leaders:** Bill Abriel, as Vice Moderator, has been working through nominations and engagement this year for our ministries and committees. We do want to include those not currently engaged. Bill reviewed the current Council members, and ministry and committee leaders and volunteers for 2023. He indicated there is a vacancy right now on the OSV/OSHF OCC Board which is required to be filled by a church member. Anne Barr explained that during the pandemic, when committee activities were pared back, Council undertook the engagement duties. It has been incredibly taxing for Council to find volunteers. We agreed it would be smart to once again have an Engagement Committee to handle the nominations and divide up the work of engagement and finding volunteers to serve. Karen Norris volunteered to be on the Engagement Committee. The congregation moved and approved the slate of officers. Mike Kersten encouraged everyone to become familiar with the bylaws that are available via the website. Craig Taatjes indicated the Governance Committee would be happy to clarify bylaw issues.

**Installation of Church Leaders:**  Reverend Elizabeth Robinson installed and blessed the church leaders.

The congregation sang a hymn and Reverend Elizabeth Robinson provided a closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm.

Kathleen Wiegand, Clerk