

MINUTES OF THE 156TH ANNUAL MEETING
of the
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH of Saugatuck, MI
Sunday, January 15, 2017

- Moderator Jon Van Raalte called the meeting to order at 11:18 am.
- Pastor Sarah Gladstone read a devotional passage..
- David Edwards offered the opening prayer.
- Betty White offered the memorial to those who have passed away.
- Motion to approve the 2016 minutes by Brad Rudich/Cathy Brockington, passed.
- The proposed budget for 2017 was presented by Phyllis Yff. She explained that there will be savings in the staff budget because the pianist will be off one Sunday so we can have an organist, and the secretary has gone to hourly wages. Several other areas will be cut. She outlined the duties of the new staff position of sexton, which would include custodial care, minor repairs and lawn care and would begin in April. Kathy Plapp made a motion accept the proposed budget with an amendment to increase the CE Director's salary to \$9000. Cathy Brockington seconded, but the motion failed to pass by a show of hands. Brad Rudich made a motion, seconded by Graham Duryee to accept the budget as proposed. Motion passed also by a show of hands.
- The Slate of Nominations includes Cathy Brockington as Benevolence member of the Board of Trustees. She, however, decided to fill the vacant slot of Publicity on the Board of Trustees with a term of 2017 to 2019. Kirke White volunteered to fill the At Large position on the Board of Trustees for one year. This left three empty positions on the Board of Deacons, one empty position on the Board of Trustees and no candidate for Church Treasurer. Brad Rudich made a motion to approve the slate, seconded by Pat Gentry. Motion carried.
- Pastor Sarah Gladstone reported that our congregation has been chosen to represent the "small church" at a workshop called "The Thriving Church" in the upcoming National Convention of the NACCC in Peidmont in June. Since 80% of the Congregational Christian churches are small, this is quite an honor. Sarah said she will be calling together focus groups in the spring to create a profile of our church, showing our strengths, weaknesses and goals for the future in preparation for her presentation at the workshop.
- Moderator Van Raalte told a story demonstrating the need to trust in God and encouraged the congregation to make 2017 a year of fun.
- Pastor Sarah outlined the theme for 2017 "Joy to the World," depicted on the bulletin board which will greet everyone at the entrance to the church. This includes opportunities for mission for each season, Bible study, exercise groups and ways to use our kitchen to serve the community.
- After a closing prayer by Pastor Sarah, the meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm.

Betty A. White, Clerk .