

**CUCC Society Annual Meeting Minutes Aug 19, 2018**  
**Unapproved until the 2019 Annual Meeting**

**Peggy O'Connor, Board President**, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1:04pm. Peggy opened the meeting with a little history. We have been gathering on the grounds since 1875, maybe not in this exact spot, but they most likely met and had meetings as we are doing today. This is our 143<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting!! Wonderful to see so many show up. Peggy gave the opening prayer.

**John Rodgers, Chaplain Administrator**, led us in a service of remembrance for three Society Members who passed away this year.

Donald Esslinger

Elaine Navias

Dorothy Hecky

**Minutes from 2017 Annual Meeting**

**Sue Peterson, Secretary**

Rex Becker had two changes for the 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes. One to add Bob Boehm to the list of those being recognized for his service. The other on page 6 to put his name, Rex Becker, in as the dissenting Society member voting on an issue.

With those two minor exceptions, the minutes were approved as written.

**Chaplain Administrator's Report**

**John Rodgers**

John announced his report was available to read. He said there is never a dull moment. There are both joys and challenges. The staff, the hosts, Grace, Sandy and everyone did a great job. We appreciate them all. (There was applause.) The Chaplains of the week came from a variety of places, from Hawaii to England. Great group this year. John is getting ready to search for next year's Chaplains. He said it was an honor to be here to serve this year.

Question asked. Are we doing more cleaning than years ago?

John replied Yes, more and better cleaning than it used to be. Rooms before the season were cleaned by volunteers. Not done by professionals this year like was done last year. Since the amp construction was completed, there wasn't the dust this year. During week 0, a lot of cleaning was done by volunteers.

Applause for both Susan and John Rodgers.

**President's Report**

**Peggy O'Connor**

Peggy feels the Institute is blessed by having John and Susan. A Highlight for the Society was during week 5 when Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, our UCC president, was Chaplain of the week joined by his wife Mimi. John sent a video to the Board stating he wants the relationship between the Society and the National UCC to be strengthened. He would like to send someone from the Association to be a Chaplain of the week each summer. He wants us to stay connected and hold each other in prayer.

Five other items to report:

1. Wanted to reaffirm that we will move our historical records to the Institute's archive. Our historical records will be available for anyone to read. Great way to share and assure the records are in a safe place not to be thrown away.
2. The board decided to give money for two rooms to house some of the people from the Home Boys Association for whatever week they are coming. Great way for us to use our money for justice.
3. We recognized the job of Headquarters Host. This person provides hospitality for the Headquarters events including shopping, preparing, and cleaning up the food and drinks. This summer Susan Rodgers did the role and will do so next summer. (Applause.) The board felt strongly that it become a staff position and needed to be recognized.
4. The Board voted to move the date of the Aug Annual and Board meetings next year after week 9, to Aug 24 for the Board meeting and Aug 25 at 1:00 for the Annual meeting. Reason, difficulty getting passes for Board members between weeks 8 and 9. We were nearly at 100% occupancy this year. Need to have the rooms available for guests. More likely to have rooms for board members after week 9. If you're here for week 9, we hope you can stay for the meeting and then help for the closing of the building. The Board members stood to be recognized. (Applause.) Peggy stated the Board also had Conference calls throughout the year besides the other meetings.
5. We have a Facebook page. Please go to FB and search "Chautauqua United Church of Christ Society" and like our page. It helps you feel like you have been here. See faces. Be reminded of what's going on throughout the season.

#### **Registrar's Report**

#### **Grace Lipman**

This has been a busy year, yet exciting. There was much to learn. She is thankful for all the helpers. She has a new respect for Ruth Becker who was registrar for years. (Applause.) Not a phone call or text or email was unanswered by Ruth even when she was in Sweden. Denis Esslinger helped with the computer. Denis has simplified the forms. Many other people helped. Grace feels so much support. As summer began we were at 100% occupancy which lasted about 24 hours. (Laughter) She learned throughout the summer that changes happen constantly. Trend for online sign ups and credit card payments have continued and most are done that way. This is much easier for both ends. We have 34 rooms – 10 at RCH and 24 at MF. 306 rooms for the summer. This summer there were 304 rooms fully paid. Sometimes they arrived late or left early as usual. But 99% overall occupancy is remarkable. Grace feels privileged and blessed to relate to all the guests. It feels like they are friends before they met from all the contacts ahead of of time. It takes a village of support. Thank you. (Applause.)

#### **Treasurer's Report**

#### **John Botti**

John passed out the budget. He had a steep learning curve this year as well for his first year. Tom Worley helped a lot. There is a room rate increase for 2019. The last raise was in 2015 where it was adjusted to take care of credit card charges. Hopefully there won't be a raise again for at least 5 years. Maintaining the old properties can be expensive.

Note in the 2019 budget, the Board can approve up to \$19,000 (noted as income and expense) from the Endowment Funds. As approved last year, remember the new 4% rule, which states that the Society could receive up to 4% of Endowment assets (based on a rolling 12 quarter balance) The amount is up from \$10,000 in the 2018 budget. On the last page, the expenses from 2017 for non budget but board approved items were for toilets, sinks, refrigerators, stoves, among other items as listed.

This 2019 budget currently shows a \$3800 surplus. This is “banked” money so we won’t have to raise money in two years. It costs a lot to maintain our three historic buildings.

Thank you to the staff for watching the budget this year. The expenses were close to budget. We should come out close to or a little under budget for 2018.

We took \$60,000 from checking to pay back savings for the 20/20 campaign. \$74,000 now in savings. Will transfer back as needed. We increased the honorarium for the registrar by \$400.

Rex Becker asked why there was an honorarium increase for the Registrar and not the other staff and also why the gardener, Sandy, gets nothing. It was noted that Sandy does receive a room. Rex made a motion that Sandy get a \$700 honorarium and the rest of the staff get a 20% raise.

A lengthy discussion was held.

Bill Libby said we do what we do for the Society because we love it.

Sandy said she did not ask for it. She loves what she does.

A few others spoke.

President Peggy gave background on the the task the Personnel Committee had. It was suggested that everyone get a raise in their honorariums. The committee studied it and considered the best option for this year. No one is paid “fairly” if you think of the job. Some are not paid at all. Remember we give gate passes, parking, rooms, not just honorariums. The Personnel and Finance Committees decided to begin the process of examining honorariums. Increase one or none. Is it fair? No. Is it what we can do right now? Yes. The Personnel Committee did the best they could. Wish it was different. Please help us grow our endowment and our gifts to the society. It is how we survive. If we want to exist 50 years and more from now, we need to give bequests. Help us if you want to see us do more.

Denis Esslinger spoke as chair of Personnel saying they did spend a lot of time and effort to do the right thing. They decided to recommend an increase for the registrar for this year. The Board voted to support the decision. Others spoke about what we do for the Society is a labor of love. The honorariums are a “token” of appreciation. Others had comments. We hope the staff knows they are recognized and valued.

Rex replied that there should be \$1000 to give to the staff and Sandy. He called for the vote on his motion.

**Motion made by Rex Becker to start an honorarium for our gardener of \$700 and to increase the other staff about 20%. Second by Ruth Becker. The voice vote did NOT pass.**

### **20/20 Campaign Report**

**John Rodgers**

This year was a celebration of where we are. Nothing new this year. Our original goal was to make safety repairs, install the lift, improve bathrooms, and remodel the dining room.

Railings on the RCH is complete, the lift was installed and we remodeled the dining room.

Our attention now is to remodel the bathrooms. Beginning this fall we will start campaigning after we know costs. So we will ask for donations this fall and winter and next summer. The Board has approved the bathrooms to be completed by 20/20.

We are the people who make all this happen.

### **Endowment Trustees Report**

**Bill Libby**

Bill feels blessed to have been on the Board and to currently be an Endowment Trustee. The primary responsibility of the Endowment Trustees is to oversee the financial investment assets held in two investment entities: the United Church Funds and Vanguard Marketing Corporation and to annually distribute earnings as requested by the Board. The other responsibility is to invest the life memberships (\$2400 for 2018 from 7 life members, \$4200 for 2017 from 12 life members, and \$3200 in 2016) and to encourage members to donate to the endowment.

With 20/20 campaign going on, it was suggested to not ask for bequests for the Endowment Fund, but Bill is asking. We need the funds to keep affordable housing and for the upkeep of our three historical buildings. Bill gave a brief report on market values and dividend income from the endowment. He also discussed the number of shares we own from the United Church Funds and Vanguard as well as some of the restricted funds for special projects.

Alice Filkins, a Long time Society member and administrator, in her will bequeathed \$74, 891.30. \$20,000 was given to the 20/20 campaign, about \$40,000 for replacing the RCH railings, and \$15,000 into the two mutual funds.

Endowment Trustees are Susan Laubach, Rex Becker and Bill Libby, John Botti, the CUCCS treasurer and Peggy O'Connor, President of CUCCS.

Bill found it to be a pleasure to be a part of this community serving for the past 8 years.

### **Governance Committee Report**

**Sue Peterson**

Sue gave a brief summary of the new Board Candidates. Welling Hall, Gaye Santoro, Shannon Washington, John Forristal and Joe Twist are recommended by the Board. The Governance Committee with the help of Susan Rodgers and Grace Lipman searched for candidates with a variety of skills needed for the board, various ages, and a mix of men and women.

**John Rodgers moved to accept the board candidates. Maggie Brockman gave the second. Passed with a unanimous voice vote.**

John Botti reminded us we had not voted on the budget.

**Kurt Ackley moved to accept the budget. Warren Thomas gave the second. Voice vote passed with a couple dissents.**

Officers' Slate presented by Sue Peterson, Chair of the Governance Committee

Peggy O'Connor, President

Denis Esslinger, Vice President

Sue Peterson, Secretary

John Botti, Treasurer

**Motion made by Warren Thomas to accept the slate of officers. Connie Robinson made the second. Passed with a unanimous voice vote.**

### **Facilities Committee Report**

**Hal Simmons**

Hal showed the plans for the new bathrooms. They are available for members to look at after the meeting. The 1<sup>st</sup> floor will have a tub and shower. The 2/3 floors will have two showers and two toilets with sinks. Rooms 26/27 and rooms 36/37 will be family suites. 4<sup>th</sup> floor will have a larger space for the registrar. The final cost will be provided later.

### **Personnel Committee Report**

**Denis Esslinger**

As we know, people make an organization work. For 2018 there was a great staff. This made it easy for the Personnel Committee. It is recommended we keep all the staff (CA, Registrar, Hosts) for 2019 except for Nancy and Curt Ackley who have completed their 5 years as hosts. There were several candidates for the new host position. David and Dana Wright have been chosen as our new hosts. (Applause)

The Board also added a new staff position - Headquarters Host. Susan Rodgers will serve for 2019 as she did "unofficially" in 2018.

### **Program and Promotions Committee Report**

**Hal Simmons**

We have officially made Taize and Tea a weekly program. We have a new Facebook page. This is a good way to reach out. We are working on a new website as well. It will be colorful and updated. The Registrar and CA can change events and information easily. Google docs was also introduced to the Board to store all our documents.

### **Recognitions of Service**

**Peggy O'Connor**

Leaving the board are Maggie Brockman, Laura Hoglund, James Hubbard, and Susan Rodgers. (applause to thank them.)

The Chair of the Endowment Fund, Bill Libby, is going off as a Trustee. He was thanked for all the years of service including being on the Board and helping to move the Society forward.

Tim Tomsen will be our new Trustee for the Endowment Fund.

The new Chair for the Endowment Fund is Rex Becker. We invite people to get more involved with the endowment fund.

Curt and Nancy Ackley were thanked for their five years of being hosts. They also helped with the 20/20 campaign and did amazing things. Peggy said thank you is just not enough, but the best we have to give. We hope they stay involved. The traditional picture of the CUCCS houses was given to them. Peggy told them if ever they can't come to Chautauqua, they will be able to go home and see the picture on their wall.

Curt responded that it has been a joy for them. The picture will go in their home in Tennessee.

Peggy thanked everyone for being a thoughtful and caring group.

Closed with a Prayer.

David Graves moved to adjourn. Second by Kathy Blezzard.

Adjourned at 2:40pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Peterson