

NORTH YARMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

220TH ANNUAL MEETING

Minutes

Opening prayer by Rev. Paul.

Memorial candles were lit for three members and friends: Shirley Lake, Clark Whittier, and Rev. Nancy White.

Annual roll call was dispensed with; attendance was taken — quorum of 23 was met, 24 attending. (Quorum = 2/3 of average annual attendance, which was 34).

Acceptance of annual report:

Motion: To accept annual reports as printed: Annie/Leslie. VOTED.

Budget:

Motion: Accept the annual budget as printed in the annual report. Annie/Jon. Liz explained that we ended 2025 with a surplus. The Council voted that this surplus be applied to the 2026 budget. Included in the budget are interim minister, 5% increase for church employees. Revenues for 2026 include an increase of 14% over last year. This makes planning easier. Other increases in expenses were covered by the surplus brought forward. These increases included the Christian education program and the music program. VOTED.

Nominating:

A slate has been presented by the church council.

Motion: To accept the slate as printed. Annie/Jon. Discussion: Aren't chairpeople supposed to be selected at the first meeting of the committees? Some chairs are already listed — is this ok? This will be changed — chairs will be elected at the first meetings of each committee; these shouldn't be in the nominating report. VOTED. Paul offered a prayer and installation from the United Church of Christ for the church boards and committees.

Standard Operating Procedures:

Leslie communicated changes to the SOP manual. There have been no changes to the bylaws this year. There were no alterations, but three things added. Faith Formation group included a description of its work. Council added detail on how they will communicate with the congregation more regularly, and staff job descriptions were added. Under Trustees, an annual "audit" is included — this should be changed to

“review” because an audit has more financial and legal connotations. We do follow good financial practices — separation of income and expenses; signing of checks is separate from bookkeeping. Two people count money; reviews by trustees of financials. Liz as CPA and accountant feels that we meet financial standards. Church Council: L. Council members can only vote one position if they hold more than one. If a Council member holds more than one position, another person from the committee or board can attend council to vote. Eight voting members make up Council.

New Business:

Trustees: New fee schedule for rentals. Last change was in 2017. Main rental \$250 per 4 hour use for outside groups. Community groups \$200 per 4 hour use. Members \$150 per 4 hour use. Under the church \$50. Kitchen fee separate, sometimes waived, sometimes not. \$35/4 hrs. Wescustogo Hall \$285/hour, smaller rooms less. AA is not charged rent; they give donations periodically. Girls Scouts and 4H also community service — they donate to food pantry and pet pantry.

Change of alcohol policy: Most wedding receptions and some other events do include some alcohol; we could be losing rentals because we don't allow alcohol. Consider changing this policy, not to include open bars but possibly toast or limited alcohol. Consider liability issues. Two part process — consensus by church and how to manage, establish guidelines, etc. Possibly hiring a person to manage. Trustees and Council need to collaborate and discuss this further. Concerns: We have AA and on the other hand encourage drinking. Needs further discussion and research. A big change — this is a safe place for folks not drinking, apprehensive about bringing in alcohol. Listen to both sides of the story. When space rented to caterers, they come with licenses and insurance. How many church in the area actually allow alcohol? How do they handle? Yarmouth and South Freeport both allow alcohol. Also about inviting people into the church.

Call was read for minutes meeting to be held February 8, 2026.

Jeff noted that we have made progress in collaborating and communicating and hope to continue.

Motion to adjourn: Gail/ Bill. VOTED.