

**Minutes of the MCCDC Congregational Meeting**  
**Sunday, November 22, 2015**

- I. **Call to Order:** The 2015 Congregational Meeting of MCCDC was called to order at 12:44 pm. Rev. Elder Dwayne Johnson noted that the quorum would require 22 members. The necessary quorum was established with 50 members in good standing present.
  
- II. **Opening Prayer:** Rev. Dwayne led the congregation in the opening prayer.
  
- III. **Terms of Debate:** Rev. Dwayne laid out that the Congregational Forum held on November 15<sup>th</sup> provided an opportunity for extended debate and that he would like to limit the debate at the Congregational Meeting to three speakers for and three speakers against each item on the agenda.
  
- IV. **Elections for the Board of Directors:** The Board of Directors had two open positions and Rev. Dwayne presented the four candidates recommended by the Nominations Committee and approved by the Board: Fenicia L. Ballard, Quanti E. Davis, John Merriwether and Bobbi E. Strang. The new members were elected on the first ballot.

Election results:

Fenicia Ballard: 40 votes

John Merriwether: 26 votes

Quanti Davis: 17 votes

Bobbi Strang: 12 votes

Rev. Dwayne invited the old and newly elected Board members to stand, and the congregation joined him in a prayer and blessing for the outgoing and incoming members.

- V. **Approval of Budget for 2016:** Rev. Dwayne shared the results of the November Board meeting with the congregation. At the Congregational Meeting, Tim Helm had asked the Board to consider a 5 percent raise for Rev. Cathy Alexander and he followed up with that question at the meeting. Rev. Dwayne laid out that the Board did not amend the budget based on current financial trends and realities, and that it kept the 1% COLA as presented in the budget proposal. However, the Board looked at other ways to do the increase that Rev. Cathy deserves. Rev. Dwayne said that the Board decided to bring back the tradition of a Christmas offering for full time staff this year. He also explained that he will neither

take the 1% COLA for his own salary nor partake in the donation being offered.

Rev. Dwayne then asked for further comments for and against the 2016 budget proposed by the Board of Directors. Quanti Davis asked whether the Board would consider giving a 5% increase once the financial situation and giving will be clearer in 2016 or whether an increase would depend on what we can afford. Rev. Dwayne explained that we would need to see the financial trending and base any potential increase on the income.

Rev. Dwayne then asked for a vote on the budget as proposed and moved by the Board. By show of hands, the 2016 budget passed unanimously.

- VI. Bylaw Change request:** Cecelia Hayden-Smith had requested a change of the Bylaws, and Rev. Dwayne said that any revisions would have to be proposed by a Bylaws Committee in 2016 and then voted on in next year's Congregational Meeting.
- VII. Reports:** Rev. Dwayne moved to accept the reports as presented in the Congregational packet and by show of hands, the reports passed unanimously.
- VIII.** Bob Whitman moved and Steve Jones seconded that the Congregational Meeting be adjourned. By show of hands, the meeting was adjourned at 1:14 pm.