

Annual Meeting of Red Lodge Community Church
January 19, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Moderator, Jim Brown. Pastor Pam Petersen led us in prayer. Those present sang "All Are Welcome", as the opening hymn. Jim Brown declared a quorum. A pot luck preceded the meeting, with Mark Shubert providing piano music.

Debbie Awes spoke to thank everyone for supporting her in her work as Moderator. She will continue to serve as past moderator, assisting Jim in his new role. The congregation thanked her for her dedication in serving the church. The 2020 slate of officers was installed during worship preceding our meeting.

The minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting were reviewed and approved as read.

Reports of officers and ministries were presented in the 2019 Annual Report Booklet. It was pointed out that the published financial report and proposed budget were not accurate. There were technical difficulties with the computer, and key staff were on vacation. A corrected version will be available in the church office this week. It was confirmed however, that we ended the year with an \$18,915.76 deficit. Dixie Mc Campbell pointed out that we do have other sources of income available from investments. Jim reported that The Executive committee had passed a motion to have the Financial Ministry become a part of the Executive Committee, instead of a stand alone committee. It is not clear exactly how this will unfold, but he will keep the congregation advised as to the progress of this possibility.

The main order of business involved presentation to the congregation for a vote, the motion to become an Open and Affirming Church in The UCC. Don Kinney made the motion and read the official ballot. It read as follows; "Red Lodge Community Church is called to the ministry of Open and Affirming. We embrace as a gift the diversity of our community and the

world. We celebrate our human family's diversity of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, age, faith history, economic status, marital status, physical and mental ability, and education. We believe that we can love alike even though we may not think alike. Therefore this body would like to become "Officially Open and Affirming." Written ballots were provided. Thirty-six voted yes, one voted no. The motion carried.

LuAnn Brown rose to voice her concerns regarding Christian Education, of which ministry she is a member. She stated that it is difficult to attract younger families with children due to the inconsistent availability of nursery attendants and teachers for Church School. A motion was passed to make early childhood church school a priority. Pastor Pam pointed out that we do have a curriculum and funding for such a program, but that finding staff was an issue. Anyone involved with the youth in the church in any way, is required to pass a background check. This includes herself, in her work with the current confirmation class. She also pointed out that there are 3 students taking confirmation instruction, and several young people training to be acolytes. Jay West motioned that the RLCC make early church school and nursery care a priority. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

"The Church's One Foundation" was sung as the closing hymn. Pastor Pam led us in a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned by Jim Brown.