

Annual Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2026

Moderator, Susan Aamold, called the meeting to order and Pastor Dustin Bartlett led us in an opening prayer.

Minutes of the 2025 Annual Meeting were reviewed. Jim Clendenin made a motion to approve the minutes. Rosanne Dyce-Anderson seconded the motion, and it passed,

In reviewing the Moderator's Report Susan noted that the focus in 2025 was on giving; noting a new home for Rachel's Hope, support for Ukrainian families, and a donation to Feeding South Dakota.

Pastor Dustin highlighted items in his Pastor's report. They included faith formation for youth and bible study, the church's presence at Pride in the Park, welcoming new members, the Legacy Gift Program, and the Partners in Vision (PIV) program. He explained that PIV is a holistic approach to mission and how finances and buildings meet that need.

Pastor Dustin announced that Rev. Drew Terry of the UCC Church Building & Loan Fund, will be in Watertown on March 6 & 7 to facilitate strategic planning to allow us to determine our mission. It is important that as many as possible participate in planning for our future and he urged everyone to put March 6 & 7 on their calendars.

Rachel Clendenin noted that it has been a busy year in Christian Education. She highlighted confirmation, formation of a Youth Group, attending the UCC General Synod, Summer Smash, and Christmas program. When asked Rachel reported that there are 13 registered members of Sunday School with 8-10 regularly in attendance and 5 regulars in the Youth Group that meet once a month.

Lynne Forbush thanked all those who delivered Meals on Wheels in 2025. Glenn Robel and Frank Kitterman have decided to retire and Lynne thanked them for their many years of service. Their departure means open routes need to be filled. She asked everyone to prayerfully consider how they might help. It would mean being available from 11am to noon Monday through Friday six times in 2026.

Brenda Zemlicka provided a Treasurer's Report. She noted that putting some Memorial money in CD's continues to be a fiscally responsible way to handle Memorial money. Income and expenses continued to be the same as in 2024 with expenses being greater than income. The Income and Expense Chart on Page 16 reflects the Anritter and Erling monies being received in January and February. \$30,000 was withdrawn from the UCC

Foundation in 2025 to meet expenses. She noted that an additional \$10,000 was requested but was not received in time to appear in the 2025 report. Brenda noted that the UCC Foundation did maintain its value, ending at \$441,645.26. Dawn Engel made a motion to accept the report. The motion was seconded by Shari Wirkus and carried.

Brenda also presented the 2026 Budget. She noted that expenses for line 106 were for community mission expenses such as the Ukrainian refugee pass through money and 211 was for miscellaneous program expense such as paying for General Synod. Otherwise the 2026 budget is very similar to 2025's budget. Jim Clendenin made a motion to approve the 2026 budget. Jerica Gilbertson seconded the motion and it carried.

Dawn Engel and Lynne Forbush presented the Nominating Committee report. Weather made it impossible for Julie Johnson to attend. It was noted that there needed to be nominations from the floor for Moderator and for a 3rd position on the Nominating Committee. In her absence due to illness Lynne Forbush nominated Kelley Anderson for Moderator and Jordan Zemlicka agreed to be nominated for the Nominating Committee. Since there were four nominees for three council positions a written ballot was taken. All Officers, Committees and Council members are shown on the report for record keeping purposes but only those indicated by an asterisk need to be approved. Nominees: Kelley Anderson for Moderator, Lynne Forbush for Clerk, Brenda Zemlicka for Treasurer/Financial Secretary, Patty Zemlicka for Historian, Jim Clendenin for the Endowment Fund Committee, Frank Kitterman, Wendy Fransen, and Jordan Zemlicka for the Nominating Committee, and Allison Foster, Kimberly Schmeig, and Vina Clendenin to the Council were approved.

Jim Clendenin provided a verbal report on behalf of himself, Jim Pond and Alan Pearson for the Endowment Fund Committee. Major contributions from the Pratt Fund, \$29,554, and the Anritter sisters, \$5,240, continue to support our church needs. He confirmed that we had withdrawn funds from the UCC Foundation to meet church expenses. The

Committee felt it was in the church's best interest to stay with the Balanced Fund approach we have with the UCC

Foundation. The Committee was involved in the Legacy Giving project and urged members to prayerfully consider the church in estate planning as these funds are important to our ongoing operations.

Susan Aamold recognized JJ Clendenin, James Clendenin, and Shawn Pugsley for their dedication and work taking care of the audio/visual needs of our church. She also recognized Jerica Gilbertson for her work with the church's website. A heartfelt round of applause was given.

There was no Old Business.

Under New Business:

Allison Foster noted that May through November dates on the 2025 Attendance Calendar are incorrect.

Jim Clendenin raised a concern about items that have gone missing from our church. This has happened over a number of

years; roasters, large frying pans, TV, and recently plastic bins intended to store the new Christmas tree. What should be done to investigate and prevent anything else going missing? Installing Ring cameras was suggested as an option. Pastor

Dustin indicated that this will be on the February Council agenda.

JJ Clendenin reported that we could use a new camera. The one we have was purchased many years ago and was not part

of the recent A/V upgrade. Pastor Dustin stated that this will be on the Council agenda.

There being no further business Pastor Dustin led us in a closing prayer.

Shari Wirkus made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Brody Gilbertson and carried.

Respectfully submitted;

Lynne Forbush