

**Annual Church Conference**  
**Monday December 13, 2021**  
**7:00pm**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by presiding Elder the Reverend Norval Brown.

**Present in person:** Pastor Mary Zajac, Pastor Kim Neace, Mandy Hale, Cheryl Freiberger, Rick Spiers, Beth Bayless, John Clarke, Debbie Conterato, Michelle Claney, Allan Scales, Judy Schlarb, Chris Stumpf, Jeff Hunt, Brian Harris, Doug Ruth, Carol Harris, Isie Barclay, Chuck Freiberger, Kim Starr, Dan Starr, Dave Wilson, John Stumpf, Pete Hellend, Gina Armstrong, Beth Nawara, Mike Millette, Mark Strong.

**Present via Zoom:** Jayne Scales, Paul Conterato Alan McCurdy, Mike Ebersohl, Laurel Ebersohl, Peter Wintersteen, Diana Seymour, Burch Seymour, Steve Wright, Betty Erickson, Gary Johnson, Geoff Hardwick, Greg Pratt, Shelly Steinbarger, Emily Greene, Carol Walters Cathie Ruth.

- Opening remarks were shared by Rev Brown. Respect communication guidelines were shared
  - R – take RESPONSIBILITY for what you say and feel without blaming others
  - E – use EMPATHETIC listening
  - S – be SENSITIVE to differences in communication styles
  - P – PONDER what you hear and feel before you speak
  - E – EXAMINE your own assumptions and perceptions
  - C – keep CONFIDENTIALITY
  - T – TRUST ambiguity because we are not here to debate who is right or wrong
- Lighting of the candle
- Opening prayer given by Pastor Kim Neace
- Singing of O Come All Ye Faithful
- Scripture – Mark 4: 35-41 read by Lay Leader, Beth Bayless
- Rev Brown shared reflections on the past year and how the Northern Illinois Conference has adapted
- Open Discussion
  - What are some of the storms we have faced?
    - Not being here physically
    - Not receiving communion
    - Staying healthy
  - How have you seen Jesus being a “way maker in our church?”
    - Ministry to day guests
    - Missions being able to keep their ministries going
    - Music
    - Creative ways to stay connected
    - Immerse Bible Study
  - Where is our church being called to help others?

- Spread word to people that are not connected
  - Stay connected
  - Space sharing with Mid Valley Cooperative
  - Planning VBS
  - Sunday School / Recharge
  - Administer Justice program
- Ministries were celebrated with the singing of Joy to the World

### **Business of the Charge Conference**

- Lay Nominations report presented by Pastor Mary Zajac
  - No action needed as our changes are made in June
- Boy Scouts of America Bankruptcy / Reorganization plan
  - Rick Spiers present the current status after BSA's filing for bankruptcy in 2020
    - Northern Illinois Conference has been in conversation with them a lot
    - BSA wants us to vote to reduce the values of the claims
    - Pastor Mary explained that a vote is needed against the current reorg plan. Vote was unanimous against the plan
    - Vote was taken to allow the Trustees to do any further voting on our behalf. Vote was unanimous to allow.
- Reports
  - Lay Servant – Mark Armstrong review the highlights of his report
    - Vote was unanimous to affirm Mark's ministry
  - Budget – Pete Hellend presented the budget
    - Special pledge for staff payroll was noted
    - Apportionments are to be paid at 10% of our anticipated income
    - We are still showing a \$13,644 shortfall
      - \$6000 would come from Mid Valley use fees
      - Unrestricted funds can be used for the balance of the shortfall
    - Mark Armstrong commended the team for their hard work
    - Budget was approved unanimously
  - Clergy Compensation for 2022 – Chuck presented the compensation packages for Rev Mary Zajac and Deacon Kim Neace
    - Vote was unanimous to approve compensation

Pastor Mary Zajac offered a big thank you to the leadership for all of their hard work followed by the benediction.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm

Respectfully submitted by  
Debbie Conterato