

**Minutes**  
**Annual Congregational Meeting**  
**Fourth Presbyterian Church**  
**February 2, 2025**

**Meeting Called to Order**

A quorum was established and the Moderator, Dr. Todd Smedley, called the meeting to order at 12:32 pm. He opened in prayer, thanking God for calling us and adopting us into His family, praying that God would be glorified and that all we do would bring Him joy and delight.

**Senior Pastor's Remarks**

Dr. Smedley expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve as Senior Pastor of Fourth Presbyterian Church and thanked God for His faithfulness and kindness to us and for the health, unity, joy, and growth we've experienced as a church. He thanked the congregation for providing a sabbatical for him in 2024, which was a great time of rest, renewal, and refreshment.

Dr. Smedley encouraged the congregation to read the 2024 Annual Report, which highlights many of the ministries of Fourth Church. He noted the Young at Heart ministry has resumed activities for members over the age of sixty; reported that our Counseling Ministry has moved to a new nearby location and another counselor has been added to the staff, blessing not only our own members, but also non-members as we reach out to our community; and highlighted our English Class Ministry and the many students becoming involved in the life of the church. Similarly, the Young Adult Ministry is growing, with many young adults actively serving in the church. He spoke about our strong global Missions Ministry, our desire to send more home-grown missionaries to share the gospel throughout the world, and our expanding Mission DMV Ministry. Pastor Smedley mentioned numerous other ministries and thanked our pastors, staff, elders, deacons, and other church members who faithfully serve and our God for all He is doing in our midst.

**Clerk's Report**

***Approval of Minutes of 2024 Annual Congregational Meeting***

Elder Ted Smith, Clerk of Session, moved that the minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Congregation held February 04, 2024 be approved as a true and accurate account of that meeting. In the absence of any corrections, the minutes were approved by voice vote.

***Membership Statistics***

On December 31, 2023, our total membership was 1334, comprising 1247 active members and 89 inactive members. On December 31, 2024, our total membership was 1293, comprising 1204 active members and 89 inactive members. We welcomed 77 new members into our family of faith at Fourth in 2024. A total of 123 members were removed from our membership roll, including 11 deceased members.

***Other Statistics for 2024***

Communion was served 47 times. There were 11 infant baptisms and 7 youth believer baptisms. Three weddings were held at Fourth Church. The average attendance at the 8 am service was 282, at 11 am, 526, and at the evening service, 129.

### ***Clerk's Remarks***

Clerk Smith reported that one of his duties is to present the monthly Membership Report to Session for approval. He noted the importance of keeping the report up-to-date so our elders can properly care for our members and thanked Rebecca-Sparks Korossy for faithfully preparing the report each month. This report notes active members who have been placed on the inactive roll as well as active and inactive members who have been removed from membership, including recently deceased members. Additionally, it lists the names of those who joined the church in the past month. The Clerk said that we are a family of faith, brothers and sisters in Christ, and that it brings a mixture of joy and sadness as people are added to and removed from our membership roll. He rejoiced that God adopted us as His sons and daughters and made us a part of His family through Jesus then read Ephesians 4:5-6: "We share one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, through all, and in all."

Finally, the Clerk led the congregation in expressing our deep gratitude to our pastors for the love, passion, energy, and time that they give to our church.

### **Budget Committee Report**

Elder Rich Tucker, Chair of the Finance and Stewardship Committee, noted the amazing outpouring of love and support from our congregation in 2024 to provide for our many ministries. Our operating budget for 2024 was \$6.049M. Our revenue was \$6.264M, which was \$215K over budget. Our expenses for the year were \$5.869M, which was \$180K under budget. Overall, the surplus for 2024 was \$395K.

Contributions to the Sanctuary Renewal Capital Campaign were \$519K; an additional \$438K is needed to cover the total campaign expense. Elder Tucker noted we retired this debt in 2024 using our reserves, and we will replenish the reserves as commitments to the campaign are received.

Elder Tucker explained that the operating budget is one of five ways we fund activities at Fourth. A second method is capital campaigns, such as the sanctuary renewal campaign. Third is the Deacon Fund which received \$137K in donations in 2024, with \$109K distributed to those in need. A fourth revenue source is special purpose offerings, such as the Thanksgiving Disaster Relief and the Missions Week offerings. Finally, income may be received through bequests, which sometimes are designated for a specific purpose. In 2024, income from all funds was a total of \$8.73M.

Elder Tucker presented the proposed 2025 operating budget of \$6,323,190, which was approved by Session. It is a 4.35% increase over the 2024 budget, but only a 0.9% increase over actual 2024 revenue. The proposed budget meets the requests of all our ministries. A summary of the proposed 2025 budget is as follows:

Operations	\$1,446,030
Personnel	\$3,569,143
Session Programs	\$ 464,517
Outreach/Missions	<u>\$ 843,500</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,323,190</b>

Elder Tucker's motion to approve the budget was seconded by Matt Bettridge and approved by voice vote.

## **Nominating Committee Report**

Elder Kent Talbert, Chair of the 2024-2025 Nominating Committee, said it was a privilege, honor, and blessing to serve on the committee and thanked each committee member for their faithful service. He briefly described the purpose of the committee, and the process used for selecting nominees. He presented the following nominees for ruling elder, deacon, and the 2025-2026 Nominating Committee:

### ***Elders:***

First or Non-consecutive term candidates:

Mark De Ravin (two-year term, Class of 2027), Clarke Ewart, Doug Gilbert,  
Andrew Hammond, Ron Johannes (two-year term, Class of 2027), Joel Rogers

Second term candidates (currently serving and returning for another 3-year term)

Rob Falcone, Edward “Skip” Gnehm, Phil Greendyk, Brad Jefferies

Elder Talbert moved that the nominees for ruling elder be elected by the members of Fourth Church. With no nominations from the floor, all were elected.

### ***Deacons:***

First term:

Arpad Korossy, Kathy Looney, Tony Parker, LaVonna Vice, Janice Wahlbeck

Second term (currently serving and returning for another 3-year term):

Dennis Jansen, Bernard Murira, Lee Peters, Debbie Roberts

Elder Talbert moved that the nominees for deacon be elected by the members of Fourth Church. With no nominations from the floor, all were elected.

## **2025-2026 Nominating Committee:**

Adam Szabo, Chair\*

Doug Noll, Vice Chair

Paul Mays, Congregational Care

Carol Jackson, Deacons\*

Martin Holdrich, Men’s Ministry

Joe Ann Stenstrom, Women’s Ministry\*

Paul Kiingi, Adult Discipleship

Alaina Conley, Young Adult

Kourosh Amin-Tehrani, Worship Committee

Claudia Barnes, Outreach/Missions Ministry

Amanda Westly, Youth Ministry and Children’s Ministry

George Scola, Finance & Stewardship or Facilities Committees

Nancy Greenwold, Congregation at Large

Camille Weithers, Congregation at Large

Todd Smedley, Pastor, ex officio (without vote)

\*Serving second year

Elder Talbert moved that the nominees for the 2025-2026 Nominating Committee be elected by the members of Fourth Church. With no nominations from the floor, all were elected.

### **Roll Call of the Church Triumphant**

Lee Sauer	January 25, 2024
Ellen Latterner	January 26, 2024
Dan Olander	February 14, 2024
Hugh McLaughlin	April 25, 2024
Bert Souryal	June 5, 2024
John Erskine	July 11, 2024
Catherine Duncan	August 7, 2024
Tom Dolch	September 25, 2024
Emmanuel Akowuah	October 6, 2024
Dick Lambert	October 7, 2024

Dr. Todd Smedley led the congregation in singing the doxology and closed the meeting at 1:12 pm with a benediction from Romans 15:13, “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”

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Theodore Smith, Clerk of Session

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Rev. Dr. Todd Smedley, Moderator