

**Living Water Association of Ohio NorthEast**  
**(Living Water ONE)**  
**Association Annual Meeting**  
**Saturday, October 30, 2021**  
**Virtual via Zoom due to COVID-19**

1. Reports were received by the gathered body at 10:29am.
2. **Closing of First Congregational UCC, Newton Falls**
  - a. WHEREAS the First Congregational UCC, Newton Falls, had 217 years of faithful ministry in Newton Falls and beyond;  
AND WHEREAS the congregation has now sold its building and closed its doors  
AND WHEREAS the Association Council has already voted to accept the closure of this congregation  
THEREFORE the Living Water Association thanks the First Congregational UCC, Newton Falls for its contributions to the Body of Christ and releases them from their standing in the Association.
  - b. Comes from the association council so it does not require a second
  - c. The motion carried unanimously by the gathered body
3. Remarks from Rev. Nayiri Karjian, Association General Minister
  - a. The church is still alive and well thanks to technology and creative ways of ministry and being in community with one another.
  - b. Be gracious to one another. All are weary in this time and are in need of grace.
  - c. Continue doing what is right for your congregation during this time of COVID.
  - d. Awareness of “right-sizing” for your church including staff, job descriptions, governance structures, ministries and programs,
  - e. NEOSOM is transforming, not closing. Thanks were offered to Dean Gene McAfee and the steering committee on the great work they have accomplished.
    - i. A brief history of schools of ministry was offered then transitioned into the current needs and ways a school of ministry could be utilized. Will now be known as The SPIRE Center: School of Possibility (The School of Possibility, Innovation, Reimagining, and Exploration). Transition will occur in Spring 2022 following the winter term. Reach out to Nayiri with any questions.
4. Remarks from Rev. Michael Howard, Minister of Faith in Action
  - a. Reminder of grant programs
  - b. Highlight the Heartland Conference Anti-Racism Network
  - c. Afghan Refugee Response, a coordinator will begin Monday, November 1st.
  - d. Shared about the Elizabeth Park Community Empowerment Garden

- e. The Community Engagement Toolbox officially launches today and provides a wealth of resources for putting the faith of our communities into action.
- 5. Resourcing Our Ministry, led by Rev. Dr. Cheryl Lindsay
  - a. Noting a decline in income due to the pandemic
  - b. NEOSOM line is changing due to a grant that we will no longer be eligible for.
  - c. Highlight SONKA support: the agreement will end December 31, 2021 and they have made significant strides in moving toward being self-sustaining.
  - d. Motion comes from committee and does not require a second. 106 yes, 2 no, 2 absentions
- 6. Nominating Committee
  - a. Slate of candidates comes from committee and does not require a second. 107 yes, 0 no, 3 absentions
  - b. New leaders were duly installed
- 7. Remarks from Rev. David Long-Higgins, Heartland Conference General Minister
  - a. Summer camp dates for 2022 have been established and are available on the website
  - b. Accessibility issues at Temples Hills are being addressed
  - c. Anti-Racism Network
  - d. Faith formation
  - e. Disaster response
  - f. Reminder to read the "Fast Five" newsletter

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Fuhrmann  
Association Council Secretary