

Unitarian Universalist Society
Congregational Meeting Minutes, May 23, 2021
(Online meeting via Zoom)

President Joe Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 11:16 am. Rev. Diana Smith provided opening words as the chalice was lit. Amy Fretz reported a quorum was established with 50% of members having voted prior to the meeting. This method of establishing a quorum was necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic which prevented an in-person meeting/voting. Materials for this meeting were distributed to members by email or USPS two weeks prior. Voting took place prior to the meeting using Election Buddy online and Absentee voting on paper.

Approval of the Dec, 20, 2020 Congregational Minutes

Rasmussen asked for unanimous consent to accept the December 20, 2020, minutes as printed and distributed prior to the meeting. Having heard no objections, and by review of the votes cast prior to the meeting, the minutes were approved with 156 votes.

Recognition of Outgoing Committee Members

Rasmussen thanked the following outgoing Board and Committee Members for their service: Amy Fretz, Paul Pomrehn, Colleen Higgins, Dave Tokuhia, Jean Hood, and Ken Atkinson.

Presentation of Leadership Nominees

Sue Otto made a motion, seconded by Joe Rasmussen, to accept the nomination of Rochelle Honey-Arcement to fill a three-year term for the position of vice-president on the Board of Trustees. Rasmussen asked for any nominations from the floor for the position of vice-president. Having seen/heard none, the motion passed with 164 votes.

Sue Otto made a motion, seconded by Joe Rasmussen, to accept the nomination of Diana Henry to fill a three-year term for the position of trustee-at-large on the Board of Trustees. Rasmussen asked for any nominations from the floor. Having seen/heard none, the motion passed with 164 votes.

Sue Otto made a motion, seconded by Joe Rasmussen, to accept the nomination of Dave Gallaher to fill a three-year term on the Leadership Development Committee. Rasmussen asked for any nominations from the floor. Having seen/heard none, the motion passed with 164 votes.

Sue Otto made a motion, seconded by Joe Rasmussen, to accept the nomination of Carmen Griggs to fill a three-year vacancy on the Endowment Committee. Rasmussen asked for any nominations from the floor. Having seen/heard none, the motion passed with 164 votes.

Sue Otto made a motion, seconded by Joe Rasmussen, to accept the nomination of Bruce Alexander to fill a five-year term on the Endowment Committee. Rasmussen asked for any nominations from the floor. Having seen/heard none, the motion passed with 164 votes.

Reports by the Board of Trustees

Joe Rasmussen, President, reported on tasks completed over the past year. Prior to joining the Board, Rasmussen was involved with upgrading building internet connection with increased capacity for live streaming. Dan Gall will run the equipment and is seeking volunteers to assist. With the new shared ministry governance model, policies and procedures have been reviewed and revised. The review is now complete and approved by the Board. The Board now has five committees and a new annual planning process that is now underway. Rev. Smith has helped to Board move into our new shared ministry governance model. Fiscal problems that arose with the new building, depletion of the STEM fund, and exacerbated by the pandemic will now need to be addressed. The Board has authorized the creation of a taskforce to rethink and revision fiscal policies.

Mike Pavelich, Treasurer, reported the UUS financial base is solid with its property, building and cash reserves. As of April 30, 2021: Operating Bank Accounts - \$389,000; Endowment Funds - \$1,525,000

Recall that we have a 2021 Core Budget of \$600,000, with an expected income (pledges+ ASA from stocks + fund raising) of \$425,000. This leaves a 30% deficit (\$175k) that is to be filled from funds in the bank. On average then, we expect the net funds in the bank to decrease by \$175k /12 - \$14,500 per month. Our Bank Accounts for January-April 2021 shows a total decrease of about \$40,000 or about \$10,000 per month. This is a comforting result, but we do expect that our net bank funds will decrease substantially by year's end. Along with the \$175,000 built-in deficit, the Board has approved another \$30,000 in above budget spending for 2021 for the Bio-Cell repair and as part of a Memorial Garden landscaping. The goal of the Board authorized taskforce mentioned by Rasmussen will be to design a plan to address the deficit spending that has become a chronic problem.

Questions for Rasmussen and Pavelich were taken from the floor.

Announcements:

The next Congregational Meeting will take place in December 2021 (date TBD).

Adjournment

Rev. Smith provided closing words and the Chalice was extinguished.

Joe Rasmussen asked for unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting. Seeing/hearing no objections the meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.

-Submitted by Carol Adamson, Secretary