

Unitarian Universalist Society
Congregational Meeting Minutes, December 19, 2021
(Multiplatform meeting via Zoom and in-person)

President Alan Swanson called the meeting to order at 11:18 a.m. Rev. Diana Smith provided opening words as the chalice was lit. Amy Fretz reported a quorum was established with 46% of members having voted prior to the meeting. This method of establishing a quorum was necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic which has prevented in-person voting during this meeting. Materials for this meeting were distributed to members by email or USPS two weeks prior. Voting took place using Election Buddy online and Absentee voting on paper. Voting remained open until 6 pm on 12/19/21.

Approval of the May 23, 2021 Congregational Meeting Minutes

Swanson asked for unanimous consent to accept the May 23, 2021, minutes as printed and distributed prior to the meeting with one correction to the Treasurer's Report section: the word "battle" will be struck and the correct word bank followed by a period ("bank.") will replace it. The motion was seconded by Jim Olson. Having heard no objections, and by review of the total votes cast the minutes were approved with 132 votes.

Recognition of Outgoing Committee Member

Swanson thanked outgoing Board member Carol Adamson who ably served as Secretary for 10 months from Sept 2020 through June 2021. Carol joined the UUS in 2012 and served with several groups, including Choir, Communications, Membership Associates, Hospitality, AV/Sound, the Ministerial Search Committee, and a Covenant Group.

Election of Officers

Sue Otto made a motion, seconded by Liz Swanson, to accept the nomination of Paula Miller to complete the term of Board of Trustees Secretary through June 2022 after Carol Adamson's departure. The motion passed with 141 votes.

Amendment to the Bylaws

Swanson advised that renaming UUS service groups as "teams" to distinguish them from "committees" requires an amendment to the UUS Bylaws (the change is listed in bold type):

Article V – QUALIFICATIONS FOR NOMINEES; PROCEDURES FOR NOMINATIONS: B. Only a qualified voting member (who has been a member for at least one year and has served on at least one committee **or team**) may serve on the Board of Trustees, Leadership Development Committee, or the Endowment Committee. Any qualified voting member may run for any open position.

Joe Rasmussen made a motion, seconded by Sue Otto, to amend the bylaws. The motion passed with 139 votes.

Report from the President: Swanson reported on tasks completed over the past year. The two main areas of focus have been on maintaining COVID protocols while conducting online and multiplatform services and finding solutions to address ongoing chronic budget shortfalls. He studied the past nine years of UUS financial decisions which led to the systemic operating budget deficit and stressed that no particular decisions are to blame. A plan to erase the budget deficit in two years has been devised by

the Balance and Growth Initiative (BGI) task force with full cooperation from the Board of Trustees. This plan includes membership growth initiatives, cost-cutting efforts, and new income strategies with the assistance from the generosity of this congregation. Swanson recognized BGI group members and gave the floor to BGI chair and Vice-President Rochelle Honey-Arcement and Treasurer Mike Pavelich. Pavelich and Honey-Arcement elaborated on the 2-year BGI plan and presented 3 motions for consideration:

- 1. Approval of the expenditure from General Endowment *earnings* a maximum of \$45,000 beyond the annual spending allowance (ASA) for the 2022 UUS Operating Budget and a maximum of \$80,000 beyond ASA for the 2023 UUS Operating Budget (total maximum of \$125,000 for the two-year Balance and Growth Initiative Plan):** Motion to approve made by Pavelich, seconded by Amy Fretz. Adam Ingersoll submitted a comment through Zoom which supported the plan. The motion passed by 131 votes.
- 2. Approval of the 2022 UUS Budget of \$593,300:** Motion to approve made by Pavelich, seconded by Amy Fretz. The motion passed by 131 votes.
- 3. Approval of the Balance and Growth Initiative Two-Year UUS Budget Plan for 2022-2023:** Motion to approve made by Honey-Arcement, seconded by Diana Henry. The motion passed by 131 votes.

Announcements:

The next Congregational Meeting will take place in May 2022 (date TBD).

Adjournment

Reverend Diana Smith provided closing words from and the chalice was extinguished.

Liz Swanson asked for unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Sue Otto. Seeing/hearing no objections the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

-Submitted by Paula Miller, Secretary