

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

Minutes – Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, June 2, 2019

<p>Sign In - The following were distributed with the Tuesday Talk or the Friday Announcements emails:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Bios of Candidates● Proposed Budget● Annual Report● Minutes from Mid Year Congregational Meetings● Organizational Chart● Share The Plate <p>Ballots distributed at sign in and available in the church office hours through Friday for absentee voting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Nominating Committee, Board Members and Moderator○ Share The Plate <p><i>Call to order- Judith Vasquez</i></p>	
<p>Welcome and Announcement of Quorum - Judy Vazquez, Moderator Approval of Minutes January 27th Mid-Year Meeting</p> <p><i>The January 27th minutes were approved by voice vote.</i></p>	
<p>Opening Words & Chalice Lighting - Rev. Marian Stewart</p> <p>Memorial Moment - Rev. Eric Meter</p> <p><i>Eric read the names of congregants who died this year.</i></p>	
<p>Nominating Committee Report</p> <p><i>Doug Rossiter explained the goals and identified the current members of the committee.</i></p> <p><i>Doug introduced the candidates for the board, nominating committee and moderator.</i></p> <p><i>Doug explained the ballot.</i></p>	
<p>Elections - Judy Vazquez Vote and Collect Ballots:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Board of Trustees and Moderator● Nominating Committee Members <p>Feel free to mark your Share the Plate Ballot through the end of the meeting since these will be collected at the door as you exit.</p>	

<p><i>JV will leave after the vote on the budget.</i></p>	
<p>Report Board of Trustees - Seth Kraut, Board Chair Allie Bonsteel, Board Vice Chair</p> <p><i>The board devoted much time to a challenging issue with one congregant.</i></p> <p><i>CT is working to clarify and revise policies.</i> <i>CT will create a board book for new board members.</i></p> <p><i>Much effort was devoted to creating the budget. Next year the board will be looking at a variety of ways to create an effective budget and focus on strategic activities and Partnership Governance.</i></p> <p><i>Pledges for this year are down. We will need to increase pledge funds next year.</i></p> <p><i>We received a generous gift that allowed the creation of 2 reserve funds thanks to Art Beach.</i></p> <p><i>There will be a complete re-organization of RE next year. Contact Christine Davidson if you would like to help.</i></p>	<p>1 2 : 2 5 (1 0 m i n)</p>
<p>SYC Covenant Signing</p> <p><i>Amy Rudawski, Susan Rocsicgno, Reverend Marian and Brian Hagemann signed the covenant. SYC is a long-standing outreach of First UU.</i></p>	<p>1 2 : 3 0 (5 m i n)</p>
<p>Treasurer Report - Jeff Boughton, Treasurer & Laura Hartmann, Assistant Treasurer</p> <p>Approval of Budget by Voice Vote - Judy Vazquez, Moderator</p> <p><i>Jeff-</i> <i>The Finance Committee worked on better money management during the year. There is now a money market fund to earn interest on the church funds.</i> <i>The new Asst. Treasurer is Laura Hartman. She has non-profit experience.</i></p>	

Over the last 10 years we have budgeted more than we've taken in. Expenses have been reduced but pledges have been reduced more. The transfer for 2020 is larger than in the past.

There will be a rummage sale this year. Rachel Kraut will coordinate. Staff will get a Cost of Living increase and a salary increase to bring them up to fair compensation.

First UU will bring hire a Congregational Life Coordinator very soon.

The leadership transition in churches has a large affect on the on the overall operations of the church. First UU has experienced 3 years of ongoing transition. A variety of issues related to transition has put stress on everyone associated with First UU.

Allie-

We cannot continue to operate at a deficit. Expenses are fixed. We can cut staff or programs if the deficit does not come under control. We cannot continue to transfer money from other funds.

Dana Reynolds – are total pledges down or pledge totals? Is anyone tasked with determining the reasons behind the shortfall.

Seth – deaths of congregants and a challenging and public congregant issue have affected First UU in a variety of ways.

Michael Greenman proposed the adoption of the 2019-2020 budget. Susan Clossen seconded.

The congregation passed the budget unanimously by voice vote.

Senior Minister Report - Rev. Dr. Marian Stewart

There is a desire on the part of the congregation for church leadership and ministers to be transparent.

Next year – Kelly McNeal will become the Congregational Life Coordinator.

A group is working on restructuring the RE program.

All congregants should be ambassadors for the church with visitors. Welcome and engage them and help them understand how the church can affect their lives.

Partnership in Action – see the document provided.

Associate Minister Report - Rev. Eric Meter

There will be a reorganization of the Pastoral Care Team. This group's responsibilities will include pastoral visits. Bob Mills will take a leadership roll in this transition. Allison Warrer – will participate as will others.

Eric talked about Elizabeth Mount's departure. She requested medical leave and her departure was quick. They did not want the children to feel that they were abandoned.

Eric recognized Amanda H. for her service to First UU.

Ministerial Interns - Amanda Hays, Ministerial Intern

Amanda outlined her activities during her stay at the church including Beloved Conversations (which will continue next year), her help in RE, the Safety for All campaign, which examined policing issues in Columbus, her Hebrew scriptures workshops, her help with reviewing and updating policies, and her attendance senior luncheons. She graduated on May 19 and will be participating in a 1 year student program at Ohio Health.

Amanda encourages First UU to continue to be a teaching church and have more interns.

Religious Exploration -

Rev. Dr. Marian Stewart, Rev. Eric Meter & Christine Davidson

The decision was made to redistribute the leadership and coordination of RE. An offer was extended to Amber Scott, who will join First UU as Religious Exploration Coordinator on 8/1. Also, there will continue to be RE Assistant – Mel will return next year on Sundays and there will be another RE Assistant during the week. Jen Bojanoski will continue to organize and teach the Peace Camp.

Next year – the early service will start at 9:00. Sunday school will be at 9:00 & 11:00. There will be opportunities for adult and other RE activities during the hour between 10:00 -11:00. Tony Skrabek will coordinate the First UU Adult RE.

Christine Davidson will be coordinating a new curriculum for RE. Sunday School will change to be more interactive with a makerspace approach.

Brian Hagemann

Director of Administration Report

Some of the improvement made over the last year include a new AV system, new carpet, and new paint.

There was a revision to welcoming procedures.

There was an increase in printed materials for distribution and other communications.

Engagement with the community – the continued partnership with Red Oak School and continuing ESOL classes were offered at the church through Columbus City Schools.

The Yellow Bird Food Coop is at church on Wednesdays to distribute CSA food.

First UU continues to be a voting location, bringing folks from the community into the church. Dave Richter and Barb Fisher continue to provide invaluable assistance with the grounds and facilities.

Patricia Boughton also has devoted many hours working on the church grounds.

Results of Ballot Voting -
Candidates by, Nominating Committee

Doug Rossiter-

Elected to the Board- Lisa Brandt, Heather Pierson

Elected Moderator – Tony Rice.

Elected to the Nominating Committee for 2 year terms – Shirley Lange, Kelly McConaughy, Dana Reynolds. Heidi Drake was elected to a 1 year term.

Adjourn – Seth Kraut

Turn in Share the Plate Ballots at the door