

MINUTES UUCS BOARD MEETING 2022-06-05

In Attendance:

Quorum Number of UUCS Congregants, Reverend Aileen Fitzke

Agenda

Opening Prayer
Review of Last Year's Highlights and Next Year's Forecast
Quorum Determination
Voting for the Proposed Board Slate
Voting for the Proposed Nominating Committee Slate
Voting to Approve the 2022-2023 Budget
Voting for Proposed By-Law Changes
Appreciation for Retiring Board Members
Closing Prayer

Review of Last Year's Highlights and Next Year's Forecast

Minutes

- COVID-19 pandemic impacted our ability to meet for in-person worship services and group meetings during time periods
 - UUCS closed March 2020 through September 2021, and closed again from January 2022 until late March 2022
- Even during the periods when the church had been closed, sung music by UUCS's chorus was routinely offered as accompaniment to worship service, and with re-opening, church rituals were reinstated:
 - Ingathering, Flower and Water Communion, Bridging Ceremony, Child Dedication
- Children's religious education activities had been proven to be challenging when offered as virtual sessions, but were held once again as in-person classes once epidemiological conditions improved and vaccines were allowed for children older than five years of age
- Electronic equipment was purchased during summer of 2021 to facilitate dual-platform programming, and integrated with existing audio-visual equipment; when technical problems arose, they were resolved
- Arts and Aesthetics Committee members were active throughout the past year
 - Window shades added to clerestory windows; artworks hung in the sanctuary, including for the Poetry Slam event held in February; stunning quilt created for the back altar wall
- Support in social justice causes continued, although level of activities was not as ardent as some had hoped
 - Split plate contributions continued to be provided to the Loudoun Backpack Coalition and Mobile Hope, two Afghan refugee families who had settled in the northern Virginia area were supported in collaboration with two other UU Churches in the area; Rev. Aileen and other church congregants attended a number of vigils

- Members of the Welcome and Engagement Ministry updated listing of active UUCS members, and welcomed a dozen visitors to the church during the past months, with some new ideas under consideration for sustaining their interest, as well as reference paid to membership retention techniques suggested by UUA Consultant, Peter Bowden
 - “Beyond These Walls” e-newsletter is sent out weekly to about 220 current and former UUCS congregants
- Care and Connections Ministry continued to provide solace and supportive care to UUCS congregants in need, as well as restored the organization of small group activities:
 - Book Club, Writer’s Group, Men’s Group, EVEning Spirits, Threads of UUCS, and Covenant groups
- Among initiatives planned for next year:
 - Mission, Vision, Covenant workshops will be conducted to generate deeper reflection of UUCS identity and values
 - Interviews and focus group discussions will be used to gain a better understanding of what UUCS congregants are seeking in and from the church
 - Social activities -- especially musical programs -- will be expanded to help connect with more congregants than just once weekly
 - UUCS involvement with social justice causes within northern Virginia area will be increased
 - UUCS will prioritize its focus on children and enhance its religious education offerings to them and to adults

Quorum Determination

Minutes

- UUCS currently has 66 active members, and UUCS bylaws stipulates that 30% is the quota minimum for voting at the annual meeting; as such, at least 20 persons are required to cast votes, inclusive of those who vote by absentee ballot. Twenty-one absentee ballots had been cast, and there were 29 attendees in the sanctuary (two of whom had earlier voted). As well, there were six congregants who attended the Annual Meeting online, four of whom likewise had earlier voted. As such, there were altogether $21 + (29-2) + (6-4) = 50$ individual congregants who voted, or 76% of the active members.

Voting for the Proposed Board Slate

Minutes

- Among the current UUCS Board members, the President (Mark Lorenz) and Secretary (Jack Hazerjian) had been approved by the other Board members in October, 2021 to serve in their current positions for the remainder of the fiscal year. To continue in their positions after June 30th, they were subject to a full vote and ratification by the congregation.
- Adam Winter decided to serve another year’s term as Treasurer, and Bill Roman volunteered to replace Steve Dick as Vice President.
- Finally, there had been four members-at-large who served on the Board last year, all of whom declined to return (Yvonne Centala, Maggie Lum, Susan Reese, and Sharon Williams). UUCS bylaws requires that at least two persons serve in this capacity. Fortunately, two congregants

were nominated on the floor during the Annual Meeting to serve as replacements: Jackie Mills and Mary Methany.

- The slate of UUCS Board candidates were put to a vote, and the candidates received unanimous approval.

Voting for the Proposed Nominating Committee Slate

Minutes

- The Nominating Committee had been comprised of three persons during the past year, Jean Ault, Kim Cleland, and Lisa Winter, and only the lattermost was interested in continuing to serve. Two others from the congregation volunteered to serve as a replacement, Denise Dittmar and Nancy McCormick. They also received unanimous votes.

Voting to Approve the 2022-2023 Budget

Minutes

- The UUCS Board had already shared details on the projected revenue and expenses for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Total income mostly comes from pledges, along some rental fees and a low projection of \$2,500 earnings from the annual auction; this sums up to \$193,358 for the coming fiscal year. Expenses, calculated at \$229,073, exceed that amount by \$35,715; the two largest cost items (accounting for 77.4% of the total) are those supporting the minister and those associated with building rental and utilities.
- The UUCS Congregation approved of this deficit budget unanimously, with financial carryover (remaining from our two years of part-time interim ministers from July 2017 to June 2019) required to cover the insufficient funds.

Voting for Proposed By-Law Changes

Minutes

- The proposed amendments -- in blue font color and underlined -- were submitted to a vote, and they were collectively approved with no dissenting votes:

Section 7.3 The Vice President

The Vice President shall: assume the duties of the President in the absence of the President; serve as a member of the Board; be in regular consultation with the President so as to be ready and able to serve as needed; serve as a liaison to one of the Board-appointed committees.

Section 7.4 The Secretary

The Secretary shall: serve as a member of the Board, keep minutes of all Board meetings and congregational meetings of the Church, issue all notices and conduct the correspondence of the Board, keep and preserve the membership records of the Church and such other Church documents as the Board may from time to time deem necessary or appropriate, preserve maintain lists of friends and members of the Church along with addresses and telephone numbers, as established by the Membership Committee and the Administrative Assistant; serve as a liaison to one of the Board-appointed committees.

Section 7.5 The Treasurer

The term for the Treasurer shall be for two (2) years. The Treasurer, or his, her, or their his-or-her designee, shall: receive and safely keep all money and other property of the congregation entrusted to his or her care, make disbursements as directed or approved by the Board, keep a complete account of the finances of the congregation in books belonging to the congregation, including direction and coordination of any public accounting firm employed by the congregation, render a current statement at each regular meeting of the membership, ensure that all federal, state or local tax returns, reports or other items required by law are properly prepared and filed with the appropriate authorities in a timely manner, and may be bonded at the expense of the congregation. In the event of the simultaneous absence or incapacity of both the President and Vice President, the Treasurer may join the Board and perform the duties of the President. There shall be an informal audit of the congregation's financial records each year, every other fiscal year for the previous two-year period.

Section 7.6 At-Large Board Member

The duties and responsibilities of an at-large Board member may vary according to the needs of the congregation. The at-large Board member shall: attend all Board meetings as a voting member; serve as liaison between membership and the Board of Directors by attending the annual meeting, town hall meetings, and special congregational meetings; serve as liaison to one of the Board-appointed committees.

Appreciation for Retiring Board Members

Minutes

- UUCS Board President shared his expression of gratitude for those members of the UUCS Board who were leaving their positions:
 - Steve Dick – Vice President
 - Sharon Williams – At Large Member
 - Susan Reese – At Large Member
 - Yvonne Centala – At Large Member
 - Maggie Lum – Youth Member