

UUFCO ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES:FY 2021-2022

Annual Meeting
Location: Sanctuary and Zoom
May 29,2022

Minutes by Ella Chatterjee, Board Secretary

Meeting called to order by Daelene Schwartz, Board President, at 11:15

Rev. Rudolph lit the chalice and offered some opening words.

Daelene Schwartz spoke of how the congregation has grown and changed in the past five years. New members now form 50% of the current membership. The pandemic disrupted in-person gatherings and so it is difficult to know what new and older members would like to see from their church. For these reasons, the Board decided to work with Laura Park of Unity Consulting (a program of Unity Church – Unitarian, St. Paul, MN) to get in touch with the congregation. Laura developed the Nested Bowls concept, where a congregation first establishes values, then layered on the values are the church's mission and finally layered on and growing out of the mission are the ends the congregation would like to reach. To begin this process, Laura worked with the Board to set up small group listening sessions which were attended by some 130 members, where members expressed their dreams and hopes for the future of the congregation.

Laura Voisinet, then Vice President of the Board, explained how the notes taken from the many listening sessions were analyzed and organized by a data team. She showed the word cloud that had emerged from all of this information. Values that were expressed at least four times were included in the cloud. The most prominent one was connection. Other values that showed strongly in the cloud were openness, community, inclusiveness, and support.

Using all the information gathered from the listening sessions, the Board worked with Laura to determine the values, mission, and ends that emerged from the listening sessions.

The values that emerged were: Courageous Love, Reverent Wonder, Authentic Engagement.

The Board found that the mission emerging from the sessions was not changed from the mission we had already identified: Together, we find meaning, celebrate life, and serve the spirit of love and justice in the world.

Finally, eight Ends emerged:

The people of UUFCO, across the generations, together

- Experience awe and wonder, and grow in spiritual depth and practice.

- Articulate our Unitarian Universalist identity, understand our covenantal faith, and live it courageously in the world.
- Engage our children in a lived experience of Unitarian Universalism and faith development.
- Ask for, receive, and generously give compassionate care during times of joy, sorrow, and transition.
- Build a community for all ages where we develop and expand anti-racist multicultural commitments.
- Create an ever-wider and inclusive circle of belonging.
- Contribute time, talent, and treasure to sustain and steward the fellowship.
- Engage in our fellowship's work for social justice and focus it for impact and clarity.

Grace Kennedy spoke of how these ends can be realized. Meetings will be conducted with the Leadership Development Committee and with all other committees to see how the ends can be incorporated and achieved in their work.

Fletcher Chamberlin presented the proposed budget for the year 2022-2023, which was sent to all members with the announcement of the annual meeting. He noted that the revenues have doubled in eight years and that the economic health of the fellowship is strong, largely due to the generosity of the fellowship in meeting pledge campaign goals. The Finance Committee again proposes a balanced budget, which allows for some increase in staff compensation and dedicates \$12,000 to social justice programs.

Judy Hurlburt gave a report on the Sacred Grounds. Work on this project began in late 2020. There are now two completed areas with connecting paths: the bell sculpture and the Embrace sculpture. Work will be done to provide a means of placing memorials on the Embrace sculpture, much as bells were placed on the bell sculpture.

Linda Johnson of the Leadership Development Committee (LDC) noted that Michael Carr and Amy Falkenrath will be leaving the LDC. She thanked both of them for their steadfast and wise service on the committee.

Linda discussed the criteria for the positions to be filled this year and explained how nominations could be made from the floor, in person or on Zoom.

Gwen Baker-Yuill reported on the nominations for this year's open Board positions. The nominees are John McKee for Vice President, Laura Voisinet for President, Daelene Schwartz for Immediate Past President, and Robert Hedeem for Member At-Large. Continuing Board members are Fletcher Chamberlin as Treasurer, Ella Chatterjee as Secretary and Grace Kennedy as Member At-Large.

The nominees for LDC are Marean Jordan for Seat 4 and Susie Hickman for Seat 5. Continuing LDC members are Linda Johnson at Seat 1, Sallie Neillie at seat 2, and Gwen Baker-Yuill at Seat 3.

After 15 minutes were allowed for nominations from the floor, the nominations closed.

Daelene Schwartz explained voting by email, noting that each member would receive confirmation when their ballot was successfully cast. Daelene noted that Mark Steinberg and John Lawton are leaving the Board. She thanked them for their dedicated and resourceful service during a difficult period.

Rev. Rudolph made closing remarks and Daelene Schwartz adjourned the meeting at 12:10 pm.

As of 5pm on May 31,2022, 164 ballots were cast by email. The nominees for the Board of Trustees and for the Leadership Development Committee were approved unanimously.

The proposed budget for FY2022-23, was approved by a majority vote. The revised language of Bylaw 3.01, which eliminates the lower age threshold of membership, was approved by a majority vote. The revised language of Bylaw 4.06, which permits congregational voting to occur by written ballot or email without requiring a resolution by the Board, was approved by a majority vote.