

2020 Annual Meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem

The 2020 Annual Meeting was convened online using Zoom Webinar due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The annual meeting had been postponed from its typical date in May due to the pandemic as well.

Cello playing by Dr. Kit Abrahamson

The Chair officially opened the annual meeting at 12:10. Thanked Kit for his playing. Noted that attendees are trickling in slowly.

Expressed appreciation to those who participated in planning and coordinating the meeting: Jo Sweeny (Office Administrator), Lynn Cardiff, Robin LaMonte, John Prohodsky, and Sharon Pierson.

Chalice lighting by Reverend Rick

Remembrances by Reverend Rick

Tradition to remember those who are no longer with us and those who have passed in the past year. Anne Alexander, Jan Markee, Bev Herrin, Bobbie Westerberg and Former Mayor Mike Swaim. Rick called on congregants to remember those they have lost in the past year.

Certification of Quorum

We needed 62 eligible voters to have a quorum. There were more than 62 members at the meeting. Quorum was certified by John Prohodsky.

Review of Agenda

Board Chair's Annual Report

Christine reported on what the Board did in the past year. Observed that the Board shepherds the needs of the members and the teams.

Have worked with Kaleidoscope preschool.

Completed a congregational survey.

Personnel – the Board hired a New Congregational Administrator, Director of Lifespan Religious Education and Choir Director. These staff hired a LRE assistant and a pianist.

Shutting down and planning around Coronavirus.

Worked with teams' strategic plans and this will continue.

Meeting and coordinating with Hope and Habitat meeting.

Congregational dinner in February was a huge success, although not run by the Board but by Office Administration and Congregational Administrator.

Team/Committee Annual Reports

These were available at the congregation web site as well as sent in the meeting packet to all members.

Review how to vote

Christine reviewed how to vote by responding to the poll that gets posted and led a practice vote. There will be 3 rounds for each vote – 1st poll is for single voting member households or first person voting in a household, 2nd poll is for people who have 2 people attending and is for the 2nd person, 3rd poll is for people who are proxy voting.

Today the congregation will be voting on the Budget, nominations and covenant.

Review of Budget

John reviewed the budget.

Proposed 2020-21 income was presented. The amount of this year's budget is smaller than last year's in part due to pledges being down, not doing building rentals, not doing fundraisers due to Covid.

Proposed 2020-21 Expenses that will be funded by the income were presented.

2020-21 Expenditures chart was displayed.

The Board Chair asked for a motion to approve the budget.

Robin Lamonte moved and it was seconded by Lynn Cardiff that the congregation approve the 2020-21 budget.

Discussion – Board Chair read questions that were sent in by congregation members and John responded to them. Here are the questions:

1. What is the source of money for the roughly \$32k for the emergency Covid fund. How much is there remaining in the reserve-type funds?

Funds not spent last year were set aside in rainy day fund and applied to this year's budget. John also reviewed other funds that were not spent and are available.

2. How much confidence is there on the revenue from building rental? Do we have any reservations?

Income for building rental listed is from the pre-school rental. So that income is based on the building rental.

The congregation voted on the motion to approve the budget. There were 101 votes in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

Christine thanked John for his service.

Board Candidates

Those leaving the Board and continuing their term were listed. Beth Anne Huffine, John Prohodsky and Julie Warncke are retiring from the Board. Jack Tally will continue his term in Director Seat #5.

Rob Schiff presented board candidates. Christine Ertl is running for Chair (1 year term), Robin LaMonte for Secretary (1 year term), Sharon Pierson for Treasurer (3 year term), Connie Anderson for Director Seat #1 (nominated to complete term, 1 year remains), Steve Ovens Director Seat #2 (2 year term), Lynn Cardiff for Director Seat #4 (2 year term), and Janet Stevens for Director Seat #6 (2 year term).

Robin moved and it was seconded by Lynn that the congregation approve the 2020-21 slate of Board Candidates.

Discussion. No questions were received but Rob added that our by-laws allow for new Board members to be added between annual meetings. There are two Board seats open. Individuals interested in filling those seats can submit their names to the nominating committee. The committee reviews these and if they qualify, they are submitted by the committee to the Board to vote on.

Vote on motion to approve the Board candidates.

There were 102 votes to approve the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Nominating committee candidates

Rob presented. He will be leaving the committee after completing his 3-year term. Committee members who are continuing to serve are Steve Rosen (1 more year) and Brenna Norval (2 more years).

Barbara Stebbins-Boaz is running for Nominating Committee.

Robin moved and it was seconded that the congregation approve the 2020-21 nominating committee candidate.

Discussion. No questions were submitted.

Vote on motion to approve Nominating Committee candidate.

There were 102 votes to approve the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Covenant of Respectful Relations

Joel Martin presented the proposed Covenant of Respectful Relations (which is a revision of the Covenant of Good Relations). This was developed by the Committee on Ministry.

Robin moved and it was seconded by Lynn that the congregation approve the proposed Covenant of Respectful Relations.

Discussion. There were no questions submitted.

Vote on motion to approve the Covenant of Respectful Relations.

There were 99 votes to approve the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Christine thanked Joel and the Committee on Ministry.

Board Chair Vision for 2020-21

Christine reflected on what she has learned serving as the Board Chair this past year. Her vision is to see the building reopen. There is a committee that will be working on this. It also is that the life of the congregation will thrive. She also envisions the support and ideas of the members of the congregation to continue this online presence during the pandemic. Continue to be kind, caring and safe.

The chalice was extinguished by Reverend Rick Davis.

Meeting adjourned at 1:06 pm.