

## **2021 Annual Meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem**

The 2021 Annual Meeting was convened online on June 13 using Zoom due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Cello playing by Dr. Kit Abrahamson greeted the congregation as members joined the meeting.

The Chair officially opened the annual meeting at 2:09. The Chair thanked Kit for his music.

### **Chalice lighting by Reverend Rick**

The chalice was lit in honor of all of the members who bring light and love to this congregation.

### **Remembrances by Reverend Rick**

The tradition is to remember those who are no longer with us and those who have passed in the past year. There have not been any deaths in the congregation in the past year. This remembrance is for the nearly 600,000 Americans who have died of Covid in the past year

### **Certification of Quorum**

47 eligible members are required for a quorum. Sharon Pierson certified that a quorum is present. There are 77 voting members present.

### **Review of Agenda**

Christine Ertl introduced herself as the Chair of the UUCS Board and introduced the agenda for this meeting.

### **Board Chair's Annual Report**

Christine reported on what the Board did in the past year. One of the most important things that has happened in the past year is the work of the Production Team to create the on-line services. UUCS hosted the 2020 wildfire survivors in its parking lot. Significant planning was done to prepare for the UUCS building reopening, involving many UUCS teams. The church was reopened in late May with limited seating and two service. Starting July 4, services will be 1 per Sunday. The Chair discussed staffing changes, including hiring a new custodian, and work on a lease agreement with Habitat and Hope Village. The Board created a Security Committee to oversee security of the facility after a few instances that created a risk and thefts and adopted a no weapons policy. A Volunteer recognition program was established – the first recipients were George and Elsa Struble for their lifetime of services to the community. The Chair is involved with establishing a Fundraising Committee to address the issue of lost revenue. The Landscape Committee fixed dangerous downfall trees in Bateman Woods after the ice storm. The Chair acknowledged all of the people who have worked this year to maintain an effective UUCS presence.

### **Team/Committee Annual Reports**

These were available at the congregation web site.

### **Review of Voting Procedure**

The Board Chair reviewed how to vote. There will be a poll on the Zoom screen. The vote is electronic on the Zoom screen. There will be 3 rounds for each vote – the 1<sup>st</sup> poll is for single voting member

households or first person voting in a household, the 2<sup>nd</sup> poll is for people who have 2 people attending on one device and is for the 2<sup>nd</sup> person, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> poll is for people who are proxy voting.

The congregation will be voting on the UUCS Budget, Board and Nominating Committee nominations and a continuation of the UUCS vote on a land lease agreement with Habitat and Hope Village.

### **Review of Budget**

Sharon Pierson, UUCS Treasurer, reviewed the budget.

The proposed 2021-22 income was presented. The revenue for the current year is smaller than last year's in part due to a reduction in pledge income, loss of building rental revenue because the building was closed, and the absence of fundraisers due to Covid. Actual pledge revenues are equivalent to 2014. Total revenue is approximately \$20,000 below last year.

The proposed 2021-22 operating expenses, which are funded by the proposed income, were presented. Expenses were reduced by about \$20,000 below last year because of the reduced revenue. Reductions include program and staffing cuts. The reductions were discussed and were presented on an informational slide.

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 2021-22 budget as presented.

Discussion – Board Chair asked for questions from the congregation. There were no questions.

The congregation voted on the motion to approve the budget. There were 77 votes in favor. The motion passed.

### **Board Candidates**

Steve Rosen noted those who are leaving the Board and continuing their terms. Jack Tally and Connie Anderson are retiring from the Board. Returning Board members are Sharon Pierson (Treasurer), Steve Ovens, Lynn Cardiff and Janet Stevens. The slate of new Board members are Christine Ertl (Board Chair), Michelle Blake (Vice Chair), Robin LaMonte (Secretary), Christine Keese-Ferguson, Lisa Marcus, and Don Wolf.

### **Nominating Committee Candidates**

Steve Rosen presented the candidates. Steve Rosen and is retiring from the Committee. Barbara Stebbins-Boaz is continuing to serve. New candidates are Julianne Patton (3 year term) and Joel Woodman (to complete 1 year of a 3 year term).

The Chair called for a motion. Robin moved and Lynn Cardiff seconded the motion that the congregation approve the 2021-22 slate of UUCS Board and Nominating Committee candidates.

Discussion. Board Chair asked for questions from the congregation. No questions were submitted.

There were 76 votes to approve the motion. The motion passed.

### **Land Lease Agreement**

At a special meeting of the congregation in February 2021, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem adopted a resolution to “authorize the board of Directors to negotiate a land use agreement with the trustees of Habitat and Hope Village (HHV) to construct a transitional housing facility on Unitarian Universalist land. The Agreement shall be presented to the membership for a vote of approval no later than the 2021 Annual meeting.” The UUUCS attorney is still completing a draft land lease agreement. Once the draft is reviewed, HHV and the Board of Directors will need time for a review before it can be presented to the UUUCS congregation for approval. Therefore, the congregation will need to approve a continuance in approving the Agreement. A special meeting of the congregation will be scheduled when the Agreement is ready for a congregational vote.

The Chair called for a motion. Robin LaMonte moved and Lynn Cardiff seconded the motion that the congregation approve a continuance in the vote of approval on a Lease Agreement with Habitat and Hope Village.

The Chair called for discussion. There was a question about whether the congregation will have a chance to review the lease prior to the vote. The Chair stated that the Lease Agreement will be provided to the congregation prior to the vote.

There were 73 votes to approve the motion, 2 no votes and 1 abstention. The motion passed.

#### **Board Chair Vision for 2021-22**

The Chair discussed the vision for the future.

1. UUUCS will continue to comply with State of Oregon Covid safety requirements;
2. The life of our congregation is thriving. Our spiritual community is sustained by the Shared Ministry of our Teams; our Connections groups and our in person and live stream services; the phone contacts by our Engagement Team and the wonderful connections we have via Zoom. Our Community is like a commune where each is expected to contribute for the good of the whole.
3. Strategic Plan will be a focus of the Board and will be carried out by our teams.
4. Last but not least every member has the experience of giving your support, and sharing your suggestions, ideas and efforts as a welcomed and valued contribution.

There is a hope that all members will help to support each other. The goal is that all will feel part of supporting this congregation.

The chalice was extinguished by Reverend Rick Davis.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 pm.