

2022 Annual Meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem

The 2022 Annual Meeting was held on May 15, 2022.

The Chair officially opened the annual meeting at 12.02 p.m. The meeting was held in person and via Zoom for members who could not attend in person.

Chalice lighting by Reverend Rick

The chalice was lit and opening thoughts were presented.

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:

- Marion Dearman
- Slavka Gulaboff
- Joan Erickson
- Donna Canning
- Marian Milligan
- Tom Maluski
- Carol Manka

Certification of Quorum

There are 61 eligible voters present in person and on line and 10 proxy votes. The Treasurer, Sharon Pierson, certified that a quorum is present.

Review of Agenda

Christine Ertl introduced herself as the Chair of the UUCS Board and introduced the agenda for this meeting. The congregation will be voting on the UUCS Budget and the Board and Nominating Committee nominations.

Board Chair's Annual Report

Christine reported on Board actions in the prior year:

Board is responsible for administering the operations of UUCS and for its policies and procedures. This has included establishing rental agreements, authorizing expenditures and monitoring the budget, and hiring staff and executing temporary work authorizations to facilitate the operation of the music program. The Board has emphasized close collaboration with UUCS teams and committees, including assigning liaison responsibilities to Board members. As noted, the Board has focused on its fiduciary responsibilities by monitoring the budget and UUCS expenditures.

Team/Committee Annual Reports

These were available at the congregation web site.

Review of Voting Procedure

The Board Chair reviewed how to vote. Members attending in person will hold up a voting slip. Members attending on Zoom will vote electronically on the Zoom screen. The Chair provided instructions on the electronic vote.

Review of Budget

Sharon Pierson, UUCS Treasurer, reviewed the budget.

The proposed 2022-23 income was presented. Sources are pledges, fundraisers and rent: The Pledge Drive generated a total of \$290,577, an 11.5% increase from the current year. Rental Income and Fundraising are projected to be about the same as this year.

The proposed 2022-23 expenditures were presented. Most of the increase in expenses is due to a 5.5% increase in wages for staff. The remainder is due to known or expected cost increases for services, supplies, and utilities. There is a great deal of economic uncertainty. Therefore, \$5,000 is allocated to contingency to cover unanticipated expenses.

The Treasurer noted that for the 4th year, UUCS carried over unspent, budgeted money from 2021-22 to 2022-23 to pay operating costs. Good fiscal policy is to deposit unspent funds to reserves.

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

George Struble moved and it was seconded by Lorna Youngs that the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem approve the 2022-23 annual 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 65 votes in favor. The vote was unanimous.

Board Candidates and Nominating Committee Candidates

Barbara Stebbins-Boaz presented the Board candidates, including those who are leaving the Board and are continuing their terms. Steve Ovens and Janet Stevens are retiring from the Board. Returning Board members not requiring a vote are Christine Ertl, Sharon Pierson (Treasurer), Christine Keese-Ferguson, and Don Wolfe. The slate of candidates requiring a vote are:

Chair: Lynn Cardiff (1 year term)

Vice Chair: Robin LaMonte (1 year term)

Secretary: Lisa Marcus (1 year term)

Director Seat #2: Sara Pickett (2 year term)

Director Seat #3: Ben Cavaletto (2 year term)

Director Seat #6: Tracy Boyle (2 year term)

Note: Director Seat #4 is currently unfilled.

Barbara Stebbins-Boaz presented the Nominating Committee candidates. Joel Woodman is retiring from the Committee. Returning members not requiring a vote are Barbara Stebbins-Boaz and Julianne Patton.

The new candidate requiring a vote is Sara Shatto (3 year term).

The Chair called for a motion. Bob Muir moved and Kate Walker seconded the motion that Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem elect the candidates for the Board and Nominating Committee as presented.

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

The congregation voted on the motion to elect the candidates. There were 66 votes in favor. The vote was unanimous.

Board Chair Vision for 2022-23

The incoming Board Chair discussed the vision for the future.

Lynn Cardiff noted that there are 3 areas to focus on:

- Revitalizing our congregation after Covid. There was a recent class on becoming a member that resulted in 11 new members.
- Policies and Governance – and the Strategic Plan. There is a group working on the vision and goals as part of the strategic planning process. There is an ongoing process to manage policies and to make them more available to the congregation.
- Budget concerns. This year we had a great pledge drive team that helped raise the funds. Projects include increase rental and improvements to the facility, including 2 new stoves in the kitchen and new lights in the parking lot.

The incoming Chair also noted that the Board is seeking new volunteers to contribute new ideas and energy.

The chalice was extinguished by Reverend Rick Davis.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm.