

Meeting Minutes: Annual Congregational Meeting Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church

Date: May 19, 2013

Information about this meeting and the matters to be addressed had been made available well in advance in the newsletter, on the listserv, and in various meetings and announcements.

108 approved members were signed in on the day of the meeting and given paper ballots. Proxies and the names of those they intended to represent were signed in by the secretary and given the appropriate number of ballots and proxy cards. Handouts booklets with information pertaining to the items on the agenda were made available at this time. The following proceedings of the meeting are noted in the order listed in the agenda:

1. Call meeting to order

- Board President Choie Airoidi-Watters called the meeting to order at 11:20 a.m.

2. Unison reading of Congregational Covenant

- Chloe led the members in reading the Congregational Covenant, which was included in the handout booklet.

3. Introduction of Meeting Moderator

- Walter Davis was introduced as Moderator of the meeting. Walter made a special recognition of Chloe as regards her work as President.

4. Celebration of Accomplishments

- Chloe briefly reviewed the church's accomplishments over the past year, including:
 - Social media enhancements
 - Significant Lonsdale commitment
 - Further progress with policy-based governance
 - Overall feeling of friendliness and love this year
 - Dishwasher and floor in the kitchen
 - Ongoing building and grounds improvements

5. Election of Church Officers

- Daniel Buchanan presented the slate of nominees for Church Officers on behalf of the Nominating Committee.
- Biographies of the nominees had been included in the handouts.
- There was one name to be added to the ballot: Tyra Barrett was to have been included, for a three year term on the Endowment Committee, a further

clarification being that Amy Hess is to complete one year on the Committee. Tyra made a brief statement on her background and qualifications.

- The nominees were asked to stand in turn.
- The paper ballots were marked and collected.
- Upon a call from the floor for any further nominees, there were none.
- The ballots were closed with the nominated slate duly elected.

6. Consideration of Annual Church Budget

- Standing in for Treasurer Maureen McBride, President-Elect Alan Moore reported on the 2013-14 Budget, which was explained in some detail in the handout booklets.
- Alan made a motion on behalf of the Board that the Budget be approved as presented, to include the funds required to reinstitute the Membership Coordinator position if the present call for donations to this effort succeeds.
- There was a second.
- Discussion followed:
 - A comment was made that the Membership Coordinator position needs to be rethought by the Personnel Committee. It was noted that this is underway.
 - A question was raised as to whether the funds for Lizzie Roper's position, now coming to a close, could be put toward the Membership Coordinator position. Alan's response is that the dollars aren't there, her one-year position having been funded from the contingency fund.
 - A question was raised as to what will happen if sufficient funds for the Membership Coordinator position don't materialize. Alan noted the goal is considered reasonable and attainable but a plan of action should it fall short has not been made.
 - There was a question as to reasons for the canvass shortfall; it was noted that this will be worked out.
 - There was a comment that we are in the third year of there being no increase in staff salaries. It was noted that the Treasurer has said surplus funds could be used for that, pending Board approval.
- There was a Call for the Question.
- There were no opposed; thus, the motion carried.

7. Endowment Committee Report

- Tyra Barrett, Interim Chair of the Endowment Committee, made a report on the Endowment Fund, referring to a handout distributed at the meeting, specifically for the period of January 1, 2012- March 31, 2013.
- She noted that that the distributions line item concerns the Memorial Garden and a bank account for lesser expenses.
- The fees & expenses line item compensates the United Universalist Common Endowment Fund for their coordination of investments. The UUA website has information on this Fund.

- Any undesignated bequest is now split 50/50 between the church budget and the Endowment Fund.

8. Presentation of “Share the Plate”

- Kathy Bohstedt made this presentation, actually discussed partway through the Budget Report, with reference to a handout made available before the meeting.
- The Share the Plate format for offertory collections, which has been approved by the Board, will involve each Sunday’s plate income divided 50/50 between the church budget and groups to be determined each year.
- She noted that, as per consultant Bull Clontz’ advice, this approach consistently results in significantly greater income for churches.
- The proposal is to try it for one year.
- This year, groups will be chosen by ballot. Several occasions will remain undesignated for unforeseen needs. Forms are available to nominate recipients, including online.
- A question was raised as to why the current 10% holdback is shown as eliminated, the response being that the anticipated increase in income should overrule the need for this.

9. Results of Officer Election

- The Secretary noted a rough count of 97 ballots collected.
- For the record, according to a count after the meeting, the ballots turned in specifically indicated
 - 85 for all nominees, including Tyra Barrett written in
 - 18 for all nominees, lacking any write-in
 - 1 abstention
 - 1 failing to vote for any nominees but with Tyra Barrett written in
 - 1 voting for all nominees including Barrett with one exception
- for a total of 96 ballots, no proxies being counted.

10. Adjournment

- There being no more business to be brought before the Membership, Chloe called for adjournment, and to proceed to the cookout.

These minutes and copies of ballots and handouts distributed at the meeting will be bound into the ongoing record of Board and Congregation meeting minutes kept on file at the church office.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth M. Moffett, Board Secretary
May 19, 2013