

Meeting Minutes: Annual Congregational Meeting Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church

Date: May 4, 2014

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

84 approved members were signed in on the day of the meeting and given paper ballots for the officer election. A number of 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 with information pertaining to the items of the agenda were made available.

1. Welcome and Introduction; review of year's accomplishments

- Board President Alan Moore called the meeting to order at 12:30 a.m.
- Alan reviewed the church's accomplishments and challenges of the past year, including the following:
 - Great strides have been made in our second year of policy based governance, which continues to evolve and improve.
 - The Program Council is becoming a major force in the life and work of the church.
 - The Executive Team dealt successfully with several personnel replacements.
 - The staff is the best it has been.
 - The Stewardship Campaign came close to its goal and used a new format.
 - Net membership is down, but there is extensive growth of young new members.
 - The Building and Grounds committee dealt with an aging building, in need of more space.
 - Funding and Volunteerism both show need for improvement.
 - More proactive work on diversity is needed.
 - Communication has improved, especially via social media, but not all members are being reached.

2. Election of Officers

- Walter Davis presided.
- Nominating Committee Chair Daniel Buchanan offered a report from that committee. He named the nominees for the several positions that were noted on the ballot. They were as follows:
 - President-Elect: Kathy Bohstedt
 - Board Member: Laurie Knox

- Board Member: Marco Castaneda
- Board Member: Kate Benson
- Nominating Committee: Candace Hess
- Nominating Committee: Yvonne Rogers
- Nominating Committee, Chair-elect: Will Hoskins
- Treasurer-Elect: Joe Viglione
- Endowment Committee: Erven Williams
- Endowment Committee: Heather Dodge
- Endowment Committee: Betty Bumgartner
- Board Secretary: Cindy Moffett
- Walter asked the nominees to stand.
- He asked if there were other nominees and there were none.
- Members were asked to mark their ballots, with the option of checking once in favor of the entire slate.
- The ballots were collected and counted. The results, including ballots of proxies, being 93 in favor of all nominees and 2 in favor of all but one nominee, the slate was duly elected.

3. 2014-2015 Budget approval

- Treasurer Maureen Dunn McBride reviewed the proposed budget, as outlined in a handout that was also available in advance online. She noted that the budget is balanced, though not keeping up with inflation. She explained a number of the specific line items on the budget.
- It was noted that the Board recommends the budget.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve the budget.
- Alan noted that five items have been earmarked for consideration to receive increased support should funds in excess of those budgeted be received:
 - Sextons
 - Leadership development
 - Accompanist
 - Capital reserve fund
 - Volunteer Coordinator's hours
- There were several questions and statements:
 - Re whether there is a priority among them, Alan stated there is not but that this will be addressed soon.
Re the nature of leadership development, Alan stated this refers to a multitude of opportunities available for lay leader advancement
 - Two statements supported funding an accompanist.
 - A statement was made in favor of the sexton program.
 - As a point of clarification, there is some money in the budget for an accompanist and outside musicians but less than the music director requested.
- Walter noted the motion has been called. There being no opposition a vote was taken by show of hands. The budget was approved by a vote of 92 in

favor, none opposed. [Differences in voter totals reflect the fact that not all attendees were there throughout the meeting.]

4. Bylaws Changes approval

- Alan explained the rewriting and rearranging of the bylaws as indicated in handouts distributed before the meeting as well as available in advance online. He thanked Mary Jo Holden and Maureen McBride for their work on crafting the changes.
- Walter received a motion, seconded, to approve the bylaws changes.
- In answer to a question, Alan stated that no one church body is in charge of the several fund raising efforts and they are not listed as Board committees; that work is still needed to clarify this area.
- By a show of hands vote the bylaws changes were approved with 98 in favor, none opposed.

5. Review of year's accomplishments: see item 1.

6. Endowment Committee Report

- Committee Chair Tyra Barrett thanked the members of her committee, noting they were saddened by the death of committee member Polly Dillon.
- Referencing a handout, she described the nature of the fund and pertinent line items.
- She noted that the 24th General Assembly agenda will include a vote on a proposal to divest fossil fuel holdings in the UU Common Endowment Fund.
- She noted that growth of the TVUUC fund for the past year was in excess of \$55,000.
- In response to a question, she stated she was satisfied with the fund's performance and that it has generally been following the market.
- A motion to approve the report was made and seconded, and passed by voice vote.

7. Share the Plate beneficiaries for 2014-2015

- Kathy Bohstedt listed this year's 18 nominees and stated that all will be beneficiaries.
- She noted that each committee member works as a liaison with three groups, and is responsible for getting information in the newsletter and scheduling a representative speaker to give a 250 word pre-offering statement.
- She noted that as this is only the second year of the program the church's portion of the receipts is down slightly, but that in the experience of other churches that have adapted the program this will improve in the future.
- Walter offered that the church's visibility in the community as a result of the program exceeds the monetary issues in terms of importance.

8. Closing words

- Alan offered closing words.
- There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

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 4, 2014