

**Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church
Congregational Meeting
5/22/16**

Kathy Bohstedt, President of the Board of Directors of Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, opened the meeting and welcomed the assembled.

1. President Kathy Bohstedt presented Board accomplishments this past year:

- LED candles for the young and adults wishing to use them in candlelight events.
- Lead readers from the Board reported throughout the year to the entire board on assigned important aspects of the church committees' functioning, focusing on goals and attainment of same. This process has worked well.
- Gift cards issue - It was discovered by Joe and others there had been an error in the manner of accounting for the expenditures/investment in and profits from the sale of gift cards that had made it appear that much more profit had been gleaned than was the case. This has been rectified.
- Storage space was recanted so that large items could be donated throughout the year and held for the auction or rummage sale.
- Endowment Committee learned about how other churches use the interest from endowment to make annual contributions to the church in the manner of filling a significant need that is outside typical budgetary allotments. The Committee utilized recommendation of the Board that they hold a competition for such a project. This gleaned many fine proposals that were fully vetted by a small committee comprised of 2 endowment committee and 2 board members. The recommendation was then made to the full Endowment Committee.
- The Board approved and supported the proposal from members to form a Refugee Task Force with the goal of sponsoring a refugee family, working through the established functioning of the Bridges Program. Two families are now being so supported.
- The Pumpnickel Principle was instituted in Board meetings. This is a light-hearted way Kathy thought would help the Board members remain focused on the topic at hand. When a member notices we are in the weeds or speaking tangentially, s/he is encouraged to say "pumpnickel". This helps to maintain a reasonable length of time spent in meetings.
- Approved a Boy Scout program - A youth came to the Board to ask the church to sponsor a co-ed group that openly welcomes GLBTQ youth. The Board approved such a sponsorship. Having gained the approval of the Board, the local BSA Governing Board will be approached for their required approval.
- Rummage Sale and Auction made \$12k and \$21k, respectively.

2. Election of Officers, Board Members and other Leadership Positions:

Elnora Williams is the liaison from the Board to the Nominating Committee. She reported on the losses of 2 members of the Committee, one of whom took a vacant Board position. The remaining members (Will Hoskins (Chair), Reid Franks, Grier Novinger, and Pat Bing diligently worked and now present the following slate of Officers and leaders (previously distributed to membership) to the members for election to TVUUC leadership for the 2016-17 church year.

For the Board of Directors:

President Elect - Ann Barber

Secretary - Barbara Taylor
Treasurer Elect - Robbey McMurry
Three-Year Term - Bill Myers
Three-Year Term - Jeff Kovac
Three-Year Term - Denise Coleman
Two-Year Term - John McNair

For the Program Council:

Chair-Elect - Toni Powell

For the Endowment Committee:

Three-Year Term - Sherry Kasper

Three-Year Term - Betty Coleman

Three-Year Term - Don Dougall

For the Nominating Committee:

Chair-Elect - David Holden

Two-Year Term - Kathy Poesse

Two-Year Term - Yvonne Rogers

One--Year Term - Jamie Adcock

Kathy asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were none.

It was moved to close nominations, seconded and passed.

It was then moved and seconded to accept the entire slate. The question was called and the vote was taken with members present and proxy votes. Fifty-five members present and 20 proxies voted in favor of the slate, while one member present and two proxies opposed accepting the entire slate.

The motion passed to accept the entire slate of Nominees to serve in Leadership for the 2016-2017 church year.

3. By-Laws Change

Article VII. LEADERSHIP TEAM

Section 1: Members: The Leadership Team (LT) is composed of the President, President-elect, Past President, Program Council Chair, Program Council Rising Chair, Treasurer, Director of Religious Education, Senior Minister and Director of Administration

The change is the addition of the Director of Religious Education to the Team.

It was moved and seconded to accept the bylaws change.

Discussion ensued. Erven Williams and Joe Touchton gave reasons they did not think it a good idea, while Mary Jo Holden gave an opinion of why it is a good idea, and Lorraine Smith thought that others should be on the team as well, particularly the Membership Coordinator.

The question was called and it was agreed to move toward the vote.

The results were: 60 members present in favor, 20 proxies in favor while 1 member present and 2 proxies were against it. The motion carried.

4. Proposed 2016-17 Budget - Joe Viglione, treasurer.

The congregation was asked to vote on the proposed budget for the 2016-17 church year. A summary of the proposed budget was sent to the membership in advance and was available at the meeting as well. The full proposed line-item budget had been made accessible in the church office prior to this meeting.

Treasurer Joe reported that the budget was balanced due to some staff leaving and others arriving, with a monetary gap in the interim, which allows us to assist the incoming DLRE with relocation expenses.

Questions from the floor were beginning regarding the new employee, so Rev. Chris Buice spoke about the process of finding a new DLRE/DRE.

He noted that nine applicants were all well qualified. The person chosen has 15 years experience in RE. She has experience with lifespan RE And would be a DLRE. She comes highly praised by Rev. Judith Meyer, now retired into our community and congregation, who worked with her in California.

Gina Mashburn expressed concern about not having a capital reserve. Joe said that this is true and that this congregation is obligated to have 3 months cash on hand and we struggle with this as well. Gina stated that we as a congregation should be better than this.

Kathy Bohstedt mentioned that on the e-list of which she is a member as Board President, it is thought by many that the congregations should budget only for what they are given in pledges, and not include hoped for income from such fund raisers as auction and rummage sale.

Chloe Airoidi-Waters stated that many congregations have assumed this "bite the bullet" budget.

Mary Jo Holden added that it is never too late to add to your pledge or make a pledge and articulated where to find these forms in the foyer!

Larry Kitchen noted that the Stewardship Campaign leaders had worked arduously and diligently to meet the hopeful budget. Kathy stated that they would be receiving commendations from the church next Sunday, as one was out of town today.

Yvonne Rogers asked for better understanding of pledging donations and plate donations and where each go. Claudia answered that both go into the same bank account.

Judy Gibson expressed concerns that the TVUUC Programs block grants dropping from 2k to 1.5k.

Barbara Taylor asked Joe to give more information about the gift cards issue. Joe explained the accounting change that is now in accord with reality. The purchase of gift cards is an investment. We buy them from the various vendors, who then give us the agreed percentage in return. We then own these cards and must sell them in order to recoup our investment. He also noted that the Kroger's change from gift cards to an annual member signing in on behalf of the church has changed the overall income.

Kathy Greenberg spoke to hope for the future finances of the church and the plan to bring in another outside consultant, as that worked well in past.

Matthew Blondell mentioned Amazon donations and that information as to how to set this up should be made more readily accessible to members.

Mary Jo Holden talked about iGive as a portal to shopping and a bit about how this electronic way to procure funds for the church works.

Elnora noted that the congregational meetings used to be packed with people. She spoke about nurturing each other, changing the way we operate. This is important because this is our church. There is no church without us.

Treasurer Joe informed the group about the church audit that is in process.

Erven Williams moved, it was seconded and the vote was unanimous to accept the budget.

5. Endowment Fund Committee report on Chosen Project

This was given by Keith Bruckner, speaking on behalf of Ken Stephenson, chair of the Committee. Other committee members who worked on final vetting that included financial details within the budget were Maureen Dunn McBride, Erven Williams, Betty Bumgarner, Lillian Mashburn, and Bill Cherry. The committee that recommended a final proposal to the Endowment Committee consisted of two Committee members (Ken Stephenson and Lillian Mashburn) and two Board members (Lance Mc Cold and Barbara Taylor).

The final project chosen was a combination of two different proposals - one received from Leslie Gengosian and Will Dunklin and the second from Tina Becker and Bill Dabbs.

The project will update and greatly enhance the audio/sound system in the sanctuary.

There were many fine proposals and the Committee wants to encourage those not chosen to try again, and other members to be thinking about what they might propose within Committee guidelines next year.

The Committee further invites members to join this important committee.

6. Share the Plate (Kathy)

Kathy informed that there would be one more week to submit proposals for next year's Share the Plate program.

7. Gratitude to outgoing President Kath Bohstedt

Prior to the closing of the meeting, incoming President Elnora Williams presented outgoing President Kathy Bohstedt with a token of appreciation from the Board. A flaming chalice necklace was encased in pumpernickel bread (see Kathy's report of the Board work over the year for explanation).

President Kathy Bohstedt adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara L. Taylor, secretary to the Board