

Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church
Annual Congregational Meeting
May 21, 2017 at 12:30 pm

Welcome- President of the Board Elnora Williams

Opening Words- Matthew Blondell

Hymn 114- (gray hymnal) Forward through the Ages (Ann Barber, Pianist)

TVUUC Board Review of this Year's Accomplishments: Elnora Williams

- Each Board Member served as a Liaison from an area of church governance to support in understanding and accomplishing goals, activities and governance documents with the leaders. (Lifespan Religious Education, Music, Stewardship, Finance, Auction, Rummage Sale, Program Council, Personnel, Minister's Evaluation, Worship, Denominational Affairs, Endowment, Membership, Share the Plate, Nominating Committee and Building and Grounds) A Board Monitoring report was presented at every Board meeting. The Board is committed to keeping charters, bylaws, job and program descriptions and duties up to date and assessable to all members.
- The Board approved The Safe Congregation Manual with the support of Lifespan Religious Director that is in place.
- The Seraphim Membership software was approved for purchase.
- In October the Board worked with the General Assembly 2016 Delegates, Highlander Center and SURJ to present a Racial Justice Workshop focused on the Black Lives Matter Platform and a series of Book Talks presented by Gordon Gibson and John Bohstedt on Rev. William Barber's book, The Third Reconstruction.
- Board Members have participated in many activities this year by being actively involved with the following: Auction, Endowment Project Selection Committee, Choir, (5 members), OWL Leader, Assisted Transportation Leader, Nominating Committee, Budget Planning, and working with the Children's Choir.
- The Board supported the Auction that raised \$23,000 and the Rummage Sale that raised \$10,000. The Board contributed a Multicultural Basket and Chili Supper for the Auction. Hats off to the Auction and Rummage Sale Committees.
- The Gift Card, Auction and Volunteer Food Ministry Committees were recognized this year receiving a plaque and group photo during the Sunday morning announcements and monthly newsletter.
- The Board organized a Vision and Action Plan Committee with members, Denise Coleman, Jeff Kovac, Lance McCold, Frony Ward and Elnora Williams. Denise Coleman reported: The Vision and Action Plan Committee continued the process of having the Staff and Committees develop objectives to support the TVUUC Vision and End statements. A Mind Map was created to organize ideas from multiple documents.

The Mind Map was used to prioritize and track the status of the highest priority objectives. Potential software solutions that would be a single source for consolidating new and existing Vision and Action Plan documentation were researched and discussed. Also, this solution would provide a simplified process for updating documents using tablets, mobile phones, or PCs. The Vision and Action Plan Map will be available on the TVUUC website.

- The Board approved the formation of a Technology Task Force.
- Our church will have a full slate of 8 credentialed General Assembly delegates. (June 21-25, New Orleans Convention Center). Six delegates: Erven Williams, Elandria Williams, Judy Gibson, Mark Muhundro, Catherine Loya and Elnora Williams will be going to New Orleans. Our two off-site delegates will be John Bohstedt and Marco Casteneda.

Parliamentarian Procedures- Walter Davis

Walter apprised the group that a quorum had been met.

He stated that the meeting will follow the set agenda as advertised, as this is in accordance with the By-Laws. Walter informed the assembled that any vote requires "ayes" from 2/3 of those members assembled for passage.

He also described the process of offering nominations from the floor for elected offices. Walter proceeded to oversee the following:

Proposed Change to the Nominating Committee Charter- Elnora Williams

This change regards the search by the committee for a President-Elect.

Under (9) Responsibilities of the Committee Chair:

Work closely with the President and President-elect when asked for suggestions in filling Board-appointed positions and vacancies for elected positions.

Change this by adding:

"It has been customary to allow the President- elect (who is an ex-officio member of the Nominating Committee) to talk with his/her desired successor without informing the Nominating Committee. This allows the "recruit" to make a very crucial decision privately, without added pressure from the congregation. When such a recruiting effort has been successful, the President-elect will immediately inform the Chair, and the Nominating Committee will approve that choice. In the unlikely event that the Nominating Committee NOT approve that choice, the Chair of Nominating, the President and the President-elect will meet to consider ways to rectify the situation."

It was moved and seconded. Discussion ensued, questions asked, and opposition voiced with reasons. Clarification of current process (leading to the request for a change in the ByLaws) was given by Past-President Kathy Bohstedt. Continued concerns regarding changes were offered, predominantly voicing that this change is not needed, and why this is so, mainly that private conversations allow frank discussion about the parameters of the job, what is required, including time commitment that the position requires. Concerns

from the membership primarily referred to issues of transparency and the significance of the role of the Nominating Committee.

It was moved and seconded that we close the discussion and move to vote on the motion on the floor. This motion was defeated via ballot 71 to 6, announced by the President.

Endowment Fund Committee Report- Ken Stephenson

Current funding stands at \$368, 597. The money for last year's fund project has already been removed from this figure. Ken stated they are pleased that contributions to the long-range significant good of the church will continue. He further informed that the Committee is working to "reignite" the eternal flame a way of identifying donations to the Endowment Fund. The 2017 chosen fund project to enhance technology in several areas of the church is targeted to reach completion by end of August. There is no part of this plan that includes screens in the sanctuary at this time.

Proposed 2017-2018 Budget- Robby McMurry, Treasurer Elect

A summary of the proposed budget was attached and the details made available in this meeting. The full proposed line-item budget had been made available in the church office the week prior to this meeting.

Robby moved to accept the budget. Jeff Kovac seconded. The discussion ensued, including a basic idea of the process the committee followed offered by Robby, including seven rounds of paring from the idealized budget.

Questions about details of the budget were asked and answered by Robby and by Will Dunklin.

The budget was passed.

Election of Nominees- Reid Franks, Chair of Nominating committee, introduced the list of nominees for positions in TVUUC Leadership for the 2017-2018 church year.

Reid read the slate offered by the committee; those nominees present were asked to stand. Walter asked for any nominations from the floor; there were none. Discussion: Reid was asked why we are voting for a President and a President-Elect, and he explained that when the President-Elect vacated her position, the President filled that seat as per By-Laws; however this position remains in need of the congregation to vote for/against the person chosen.

Frony Ward moved to accept the slate as presented and Ruth Horton seconded. This motion passed.

Walter retired as Parliamentarian from the podium at this point as all items requiring voting had been completed.

Presentation of Special Awards- Elnora Williams

Elnora acknowledged those leaving service on the Board.

Elnora then acknowledged our Church Administrator, Claudia Pressley, for her service, especially in the absence of the Senior Minister who is on sabbatical.

Share the Plate Voting- Terry Uselton

Terry talked about the funding of all 24 projects submitted, which was a change from earlier years. They also extended the process through the summer, another change. This year they received 28 requests. The Committee cut that number to 22; therefore, the voting will accept 22 of the 28 nominations. The assembled were asked to vote in the meeting in order to jump-start this voting process. It was suggested from the floor that perhaps the committee should have fewer recipients of the Share the Plate and allow those chosen to receive more meaningful contributions.

Introduction of the Rising President- Elnora Williams

Rising President Greetings- Jeff Kovac

Closing Words- Annette Mendola