

**Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church
Annual Congregational Meeting
June 10, 2018**

Call to Order; Rules for Voting and Discussion

Jeff Kovac, TVUUC President, called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m., and confirmed that a quorum was present. He explained that most votes taken during the meeting would be determined by voice vote, but if the voice vote is not clear, a written ballot would be collected. During debate, members must be recognized before speaking and must use the microphone.

The minutes from the 2017 annual meeting were approved by voice vote.

2017-18 Board Accomplishments

Jeff Kovac called attention to the document already provided to the congregation, listing the major achievements of the TVUUC Board during the past year. These include:

- Approval of new charters for six committees (Building and Grounds; Finance; Music; Personnel; Strategic Planning; Worship)
- Approval for the purchase and implementation of the *Realm* database
- Revision of the job description for the Senior Minister
- Creation of a new policy for sales and fundraising events in the church
- Revision of the scheduling for the Share-the-Plate collections in the Sunday services.
- Creation and monitoring of committee for annual stewardship (fundraising) campaign
- Regular monitoring of all major church activities

Jeff asked if there were any questions about this report, but there were none.

Report of Nominating Committee and Election of Positions for 2018-19 Year

David Holden, the current Chair of the Nominating Committee, thanked the other members of the Nominating Committee:

- Mark Mohundro
- Kathy Poese
- Yvonne Rogers
- Wimberly Thompson
- Mary Touchton
- Ginna Mashburn, President-elect (*ex officio*)

After noting a correction on the written ballots (Barbara Plaut's name was mis-typed), David presented the full ballot to the congregation, and asked the nominees to stand. He also noted that the full congregation does not vote on the position of **Rising Chair of the Program Council**. Jodie Hamilton has been nominated for this position, and a vote will be taken by the Board of Directors. Nominees presented to the congregation for a vote are:

President-elect: Denise Coleman

Secretary-Clerk: Wendy Syer

Board Members (Three-year term): Ryan McBee and Erven Williams

Board Member (one-year term to complete term of Denise Coleman): Athanasios Bayiates

Endowment Committee Members: Bill Cherry, Grier Novinger, and Ken Stephenson

Nominating Committee Chair-elect: Ted Jones

Nominating Committee Members: Betty Bumgarner and Barbara Plaut

There was a call for further nominations from the floor, but none were offered. A motion to approve the full slate of ballots by voice vote was moved and seconded, but then rejected by the President in favor of a written vote.

Ballots were marked and then collected for counting by Board members. Later in the meeting, it was announced that 90 votes had been cast, with 85 voting to approve the full slate. **The President declared that all candidates were elected.**

Report of the Endowment Committee

As Committee Chair Ken Stephenson was out of town, Lillian Mashburn gave a report from the Endowment Committee. The current balance in the Endowment Fund is \$416,970.61. Contributions over the past year totaled \$10,855.79, and over the past three years, they totaled \$30,630.79. A more detailed accounting is available on request.

In previous years, income from the Endowment Fund has funded several projects, including a new sound system, improved lighting, and a new internet and communication system for the church building. This past year, the Committee accepted proposals for projects to be funded from Endowment Fund income and approved two:

- An enhanced patio area behind the church, outside the Fellowship Hall (They have already met with a contractor and discussed the purchase of pavement tiles.)
- A garden of native plants to be located in the front of the church near Kingston Pike, with benches and paving tiles

[Clarification from the Board: The first of these projects was approved for the 2018-19 year, while the garden is the project approved for the 2019-20 year.]

The Endowment Fund bank account has been moved to TVA Employees Credit Union to facilitate electronic transactions. Investments are currently made through a UUA account, but the Endowment Committee is considering a possible move to a different investment program for higher returns. The congregation was reminded that donations left to TVUUC in a will will be matched by funding from another UU church. Church members are always encouraged to suggest new projects for future funding by the Endowment Fund.

Jeff Kovac noted that supervision of the Endowment Committee falls to the Board which receives regular reports from the committee.

Share-the-Plate Program

The Share-the-Plate Task Force consists of Chair Terry Uselton, Bill Fields, and Keith Hulse, with input from Senior Minister Chris Buice. As Committee Chair Terry Uselton was not available, Chris Buice gave a report on the restructuring of the Share-the-Plate program. In the coming year, the Committee has selected the following six church-affiliated programs (considered to be part of the "TVUUC Social Funding Network") to be included in the Share-the-Plate Program, without a vote from the congregation:

- Family Promise
- FISH
- Lonsdale Mentoring Program
- TVUUC Community Gardens
- Volunteer Ministry Center Meals
- TVUUC Advancing Equality Fund

In addition to these six, the congregation is invited to vote for twelve other organizations to receive Share-the-Plate funding. (Nominations have been given, and voting has already started, with a deadline of June 21. Voting can be done on-line or by paper ballot.) Each month, during two Sunday services, 50% of the undesignated money collected will be donated to one of the twelve organizations (selected by congregational vote); one collection will be split with one of the six pre-approved "Social Funding Network" programs or a program designated by the Senior Minister; and one collection will be kept by the church to support the Operating Budget, with a discussion of church stewardship included in the service. Fifth Sunday collections will be decided as they occur. At the end of the fiscal year, the Share-the-Plate Task Force can assess this new schedule and revise if needed.

A clarification was given that the Share-the-Plate program has, in the past year, supported two separate programs at Lonsdale School. This coming year, the Mentoring Program is one of the six pre-selected programs, while the Lonsdale Environmental Camp at Tremont may be one of the twelve programs selected by congregational vote.

Jenny Arthur

Jeff Kovac read out loud a resolution, presented to the congregation by the TVUUC Board, to bestow the title of *Minister Emerita* on Jenny Arthur, who was employed by TVUUC both as Director of Administration and as Pastoral Care Minister. The position does not include any salary, but it would permit Jenny to use church facilities for events she organizes and to conduct memorial and other rites of passage. **The resolution was approved by voice vote.** Jeff promised to relay the congregational approval to Jenny.

Church 2018-19 Budget

Robby McMurry, TVUUC Treasurer, called attention to the printed budget information provided, noting that the proposed budget for 2018-19 was \$683,670.35, based on needs and requests from church staff and committees. This included a goal of \$620,000 for the recent Stewardship Campaign; unfortunately, the campaign raised approximately \$451,000 (even less than the previous year). It is, therefore, not possible to fully fund the proposed budget. To help fund a revised and balanced budget, the Board voted to pay off the remainder of the mortgage on the church building (saving about \$44,000 in expenses.) The church "contingency fund" (currently cash held in a bank account) will be used to pay off the mortgage. In order to comply with church requirements to have three months worth of funding available for emergency use, the church will then apply for a line of credit. Anticipating that additional pledges and donations may be received in the coming months, the Board hopes to increase the budget again in the fall of 2018. In the meantime, it has instructed that a priority should be given to staff salary increases, as additional money is received. (At present the budget includes a total increase of about \$15,000 for all personnel costs (salaries and benefits.)

As noted in the handout, the decreased budget reflects less funding than requested for personnel (about \$89,000 less than originally budgeted), building and grounds, the music program, new member committee, leadership development, the worship committee, religious education, the library, and the general operating funds.

A written summary of the revised 2018-19 budget, totaling \$559,527.93, was given to the congregation, based on the \$451,027 already received in pledges, as well as anticipated income from other sources (such as weekly Sunday collections, auction, rummage sale, gift card income and building rental income.) **Robby made a motion to accept the budget, it was seconded and approved by voice vote.**

Thank You to Jeff Kovac

On behalf of the Board and the congregation, Past President Elnora Williams thanked President Jeff Kovac for his service as President during the 2018-19 year. She then presented him with two tickets to "An Evening with Jon Meacham" to be held in Knoxville in July, and a copy of Mr. Meacham's book, Soul of America. A second copy of the book will be donated to the TVUUC Library in Jeff Kovac's honor.

Jeff received a standing ovation from the congregation; he thanked the church for the gifts, and, acknowledging the inherent difficulties in the job, stated, with a grin, that it has "sometimes" been a pleasure to serve as President.

Ginna Mashburn

Current President-Elect (Soon to be President) Ginna Mashburn also expressed her thanks to both Jeff Kovac and Treasurer Robby McMurry for their work this past year. She looks forward to the coming year, and to learning more about the policy governance process. She acknowledges that the church's greatest challenge is "how to pay for what we enjoy", and that we must find a way to raise the funds needed for the full budget. She stated that it is a privilege to serve as President and that she is thrilled to be assisted by, and succeeded by, Denise Coleman.

The meeting was then adjourned.

*Submitted by Wendy Syer
Secretary-Clerk
June 2018*