

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF SARASOTA

Annual Meeting

March 25, 2018

1. **Call to Order**

The annual meeting was called to order at 11:00am by President Ward Pallotta. After a count, it was determined that sufficient members were present or provided a proxy, to constitute a 20% quorum.

2. **Approval of Previous 2017 Meeting Minutes**

Hearing no request for change, correction or reading of the 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes, Ward declared the minutes accepted and approved as distributed.

3. **Report of the Nominating Committee**

Representing the Nominating Committee, Chair Donna Allman presented the following Officers and Trustees for review and approval:

- **Executive Committee:** Each to each serve a 2nd one-year term (no vote required):
 - Ward Pallotta.....President
 - Dale Anderson.....Vice President
 - Bill Payton.....Treasurer
 - Ava Whaley.....Secretary
- **Trustees:** Each to continue in their unexpired terms (no vote required):
 - Claudia Holtzclaw – 2017 to 2020
 - Anne McFarlane – 2017 to 2020
 - Mary Lou Keller – 2016 to 2019
- **New Trustees:** Each to serve 3 one-year terms (vote required):
 - Bob Kester – 2018-2021
 - Sharron Howard – 2018-2021
 - Ed Loomis – 2018-2021

Motion: A motion to approve the three new members was seconded and passed unanimously.

Donna presented the following Nominating Committee members for review and approval:

- **Continuing Member Terms** (no vote required):
 - Ron Brown, one-year term
 - Bill Geller, one-year term
 - Diane Happy, one-year term
- **New Members** (vote required):
 - John Stinespring – 2-year term
 - Lynda Hill – 2-year term
 - Charles Lee – 2-year term
 - Don Diddams – 2-year term

Motion: A motion to approve the four new members was seconded and passed unanimously.

4. Year End Financial Report

Roberta Druif, Director of Finance and Operations, provided a summary overview of the current year's church operating performance. Continuing a 17- year history, results for this year are positive with a projected \$15,700 in funds unspent. As required by church policy, this money will be added to the church's Contingency and Building and Grounds Maintenance funds.

Contributing revenue sources which helped add to this positive outcome included:

- ✓ Receipt of 98% Pledge contributions
- ✓ Fund Raising:
 - Arts Council
 - Flea Market
 - Extra-ordinary performance of the Serendipity Auction
- ✓ Endowment Contribution
- ✓ Rental Income

Committees and church operations prudent management of expenses resulted in \$11,000 in cost savings. In addition, \$21,301 in Share-the-Plate contributions were made to selected charities. Special grants for Campus Safety allowed for the introduction of non-slip walkways and improved outside lighting.

5. 2018-2019 Church Budget

Roberta reported on the new year's annual budget of \$676,175. This target includes an overall 16% increase to allow for the hiring of a Part Time Minister (in October) and for additional hourly staff in the church office and an increase in custodial staff.

To date, 76% of our members have made pledge commitments and these have averaged an increase of 19%. In addition to the staff needs detailed above, other budget considerations include:

- The cost of Lakewood Ranch ministry (which is actually self-supporting)
- 3% salary increases
- Increase in Lawn and Pest management costs
- One-time cost for new hires and reorganization of space to accommodate the new part time minister.

Throughout her presentation, Roberta acknowledged the generosity of our members and noted the board's practice of modifying the budget as necessary to respond to changes in income or expenses.

Motion: Ward noted a motion and second to approve the new 2018-2019 church budget as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Bylaws Changes

After discussion and two counts of members eligible to vote, a 40% quorum for the purpose of considering several changes in church By-Laws was declared by Ward.

The following By-Laws were presented for change: Please see attachment (BY-LAWS CHANGES APPROVED 3.25.18) outlining each Article's current and final approved wording:

- **Article I, Covenant and Mission**
- **Article II, Membership; Section 6, Friends**
- **Article III, Meetings; Section 4, Quorum**
- **Article V, Officers and Trustees, Section 3, Duties**
 - ❖ **Section 3-3, Secretary**
 - ❖ **Section 3-4, Treasurer**

- **Article VII: The Minister**
 - ❖ **Section 1: Calling**
 - ❖ **Section 3: Dismissal**
- **Article IX: Amendments, Section 1, Bylaws**
- **Article X: Dissolution**

Ward reviewed in detail the process and rationale for each change in the By-Laws, giving particular emphasis to Article I, Covenant and Mission. Ward noted the deletion of the 2nd paragraph in Article II; Membership: Section 6, Friends. Ward entertained a motion to accept all By-Laws changes (with the deletion noted) as a group.

Motion was made and seconded to accept all By-Law changes as presented.

Member questions and comments were received. Several concerns focused on the Mission Statement, citing the use of the word 'Progressive' as unclear, or linked with a particular political position. Several members suggested wording changes for consideration. One member commented that there was not enough emphasis on the church identity as Unitarian Universalist. Another felt that there should be more emphasis on social justice.

Regarding the By-Laws recommending changes in quorum requirements, one speaker felt that it diminished the democratic process, while another emphasized the importance of higher quorums requiring more education of the congregation around proposed changes. Ward and Rev. Fritts noted that most larger Unitarian Universalist churches find it much more difficult to obtain working quorums to conduct business as they grow in size. It was also noted that nothing would preclude larger numbers of members from attending any meeting of the church, over that required for a quorum.

The question on the Motion was called and failed to achieve a majority. Noting that most member concerns and questions focused on the Mission and Covenant Article, Ward entertained a motion to accept the changes proposed for Articles II, III, V, VII, IX and X. A motion to support that change in the original motion was made and seconded. The motion passed in a strong voice vote.

Ward noted that the board would revisit the Mission and Covenant Article and bring it back to the church membership for consideration later in the new church year, in season.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Ward thanked the members in attendance for their attendance and participation. A motion and second to adjourn the meeting was made and supported unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

John Yoder

Attachment: UUUCS By-Laws; (Current, Proposed)