

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Wichita
Annual Congregational Meeting
June 27, 2021

Minutes

1. President Holger Meyer began the Annual Meeting at 12:15 p.m. The meeting was held in-person at the church and with some attendees online via Zoom. In attendance were 25 members present in-person, 6 voting members present on Zoom, and 14 absentee ballots; together this was deemed to be part of a quorum of 45 this year. This exceeded the needed 25% quorum of 27 members. A list of attendees is attached.

Holger Meyer gave the following opening remarks.

It has been an unexpected year with the COVID-19 pandemic and the church being closed until this June. We have had on-line services for most of the year and we are now back in person.

The Worship Committee is commended for putting on quality services every Sunday. They put together fellowship, music, readings, and sermons that drew us all together. I appeal to people to join the Worship Service Committee to make this small group larger. We need more people involved to lessen everyone's load.

Highlights of the past year have included our solar panels that have been producing power year around and the Renaissance Food Bank that has been providing food to a number of families.

For the future, we plan to have new technology for presentations using a large TV screen up front. The Social Action Committee will be doing air quality studies in the city. Kirk Mitchell and Billie Knighton are our incoming Co-Presidents.

2. Election.

The election was done in three ways with: absentee ballots, in-person members, and members live polling on Zoom. The live polling on Zoom had glitches that were not completely resolved during the meeting.

The outcome of the election was as follows.

- Board of Trustees for three 3-year terms: Andrew Davis for one position; and Jim Buchhorn, Celestra Snyder, and Ellie Shore had a three-way tie for the other two positions. [The tie was resolved at a later date. Jim and Celestra will serve full 3-year terms and Ellie will serve the remaining 2 years of Rachel's vacated term.]

- Nominating Committee was: Anne Bailey, Magda Garrett, and Rolando Gomez.
- Rachel Rutledge was affirmed as President Elect.

3. Leadership and Committee Reports.

- Vivien Minshull-Ford presented a report from the Fundraising Committee (see report addended to the Annual Meeting Report attached to the minutes).

- Jana Rambo provided a report from the Caring Committee (see report addended to the Annual Meeting Report attached to the minutes).

- Lucy Kirkham-Cochener encouraged everyone to help plan Ecofest which is to be held this September. There is an Ecofest planning meeting every second and fourth Tuesday evening. All Ecofest Committee chairs were asked to attend the meetings from now until shortly after Ecofest.

- Kay Davis spoke for the Worship Committee. The committee began with five members with Susan Hund-Milne not being able to participate fully towards the end. Now the committee is down to three. With more members, the load will be less on each member. Kay encouraged people to join the committee or to help with the various tasks of the committee. The church will not be using the Soul Matters packets this year because of its cost.

4. 2021-2022 Church Budget.

Charles Merrifield, Finance Committee, said the stewardship campaign reached its goal plus an additional \$4,000 in pledges. The additional pledged money was added to the reserve fund, projected building repairs, and promotions.

Questions about the budget were asked and answered:

- Request for line 31, Worship Program, for next year's budget: Show music and worship as separate line items so that the Worship Committee knows how much money they have. Anne Bailey, Treasurer, responded that concerts are funded entirely by ticket sales so they pay for themselves. The amount of \$2,600 of the Worship budget goes to paying the pianist.

- Question on 32, Religious Exploration, where expenses in the present fiscal year show \$4,000 but only \$500 is budgeted for next year. Anne explained that the \$4,000 was for construction of Betty's Place which was financed entirely by donations.

- Request for musician compensation. Present compensation for musicians is \$50/service. Lara Pollock suggested that it be raised to \$75 for Arri Simons, our current musician. A discussion followed. Arri was aware of the compensation amount before he agreed to be our musician. If compensation is raised for one person it might need to be raised for all following musicians which will require a

change in the budget. Joe Lozano proposed that musician payment be taken up by the Board of Trustees; Lara and agreed to that.

Lucy Kirkham-Cochener moved that the proposed budget be accepted and John Findling seconded it. The vote was 43 for the motion, 0 opposing, and 1 abstaining. Budget was approved.

5. The new Co-Presidents spoke. Kirk Mitchell said he looked forward to a normal year and working with Board members. Billie Knighton said she was proud of how we have weathered this terrible time.

6. Lucy Kirkham-Cochener moved to adjourn and Vivien Minshull-Ford seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 1:34 p.m.

Minutes by Anita Culp

Attached:

List of Attendees

Annual Meeting Report with Addendum