

First Unitarian Church of Des Moines
Annual Congregational Minutes
Sunday, June 6, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Barb Royal. She recognized Fern Stewart, Board Secretary, Al Powers, Timekeeper and Parliamentarian. She thanked Bill Brauch and Mike Lauer for their assistance in monitoring the chat rooms and related vote tallying. She noted Patty Notch was available to assist with technical issues.

Rev. Amy Petri Shaw gave a review of the year which included announcing the reopening of the church office in person effective June 15, 2021. They highlighted the formation of the Lens of the Future Team, recovery efforts from the derecho damage, and the many methods Zoom was employed to reach out to the youth as well as the adults for various programs.

Al Powers representing the Lens of the Future Committee reviewed the current status and regulations. He encouraged members to check the website regarding changes to levels as the numbers continue to decline rapidly. He explained procedures continued to be revived.

Vice Chairperson Greg Nichols and Board Chairperson Patty Notch offered special recognition and thanks to the Communications Team for the creation of the new website. The Lens of the Future Team for their weekly meetings monitoring all the Covid shifts including constant updates and recommendations. The Stewardship Team which hosted the very successful FAFUMAF, the first art/music event held virtually due to the pandemic. The Immigration Justice Team who provided a series of activities including one particular individual which gave a face to immigration justice. Also recognized was the Knock and Drop Team as they assisted in the access to food. The Retooling for New Realities program offered by the UUA led us through critical thinking and our new normal. The Food Fair committee responded well to the pandemic offering some great offerings. Greg Nichols gave a special recognition to Chairperson Patty Notch for hosting nearly fifty meetings, a modern day record.

Sue Huber was awarded the UUnsung award for her many contributions to the church including just in the last 18 months leading the Board in the ministerial search, serving on the Immigration and Justice Team, the Nominating Committee and Kitchen Planning Committee.

Patty Notch announced GA would be held virtually again this year and we have seven out of nine delegates. She encouraged members to consider participating this year.

Al Powers reviewed the parliamentary procedures as well as steps for addressing questions, comments and voting. Quorum Call - 79 voting members present. Quorum declared.

Minutes were approved as presented.

Endowment Committee ByLaws Amendment: Deidre Fudge reviewed the proposed changes which included reduction of membership from seven to five due to current use of UUA for

investment decisions and the desire to extend REACH grant applications throughout the year. On behalf of the First Unitarian Endowment Committee, Deidre Fudge moved to accept the proposed by-laws amendment effective July 1, 2021. There was no discussion. Adopted via voicemail vote. 100% approval.

Annual Elections: Patty Notch announced the three nominees for the Board of Trustees: Reba Eagles, LeeAnn Back and Chelsea Hayes. She asked for nominations from the floor, none were received, the nominees were elected by acclamation.

The nominees for The Endowment Committee included Marilyn Lantz for a three year term, Daren Jensen for a three year term, and Dawn Connet for a one year term. There were no nominations from the floor, elected by acclamation.

Faith in Action Partners: Three nominees were presented for two openings which included Knock and Drop, Just Voices and US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants/Des Moines. No discussion. Knock and Drop and Just Voices adopted via voicemail vote.

Endowment Distribution: Review was given regarding distribution of funds which included the current Endowment Fund value of over \$800,000 and the perimeters for distribution. The first to be considered was \$60,000 for replacement of the current obsolete lift. A bid had been received that would fall within the amount allotted. It was moved by Greg Nichols, Be it resolved that the Congregation approve transfer of \$60,000 from the endowment fund to a restricted operating fund to be used for replacement of the lift system at the church. Discussion was held regarding how potential overage costs would be covered and it was explained additional funds were available from ADA funds. Vote as presented. Adopted via voicemail vote.

The second to be considered was the long deferred kitchen facility update. It was moved by Greg Nichols, Be it resolved that the Congregation approve transfer \$40,000 from the endowment fund to a restricted operating fund to be used for planning services associated with potential church kitchen improvements as approved by the appointed kitchen planning committee and the Board, and the remaining balance to be held in the restricted account for future use in kitchen-related improvements subject to prior approval of a specific plan for the kitchen improvements being submitted to and approved by the Board and the Congregation. Ann Mowrey, on behalf of the Kitchen Committee, reviewed the age and need for improvements and explained they had met with various groups within the church to discuss needs. It was expected that a professional designer would be required. The intent was to have three options to present to the congregation by October 1, 2021. A congregational vote would be required to proceed with the final kitchen improvement project. Discussion was held. Vote as presented. Adopted via voicemail vote.

Stewardship Committee: Liz Bredesen reviewed the current stewardship process. She thanked members for their continued support noting that 78% had pledged, reaching almost 95 percent. She noted the success of the first FAFUMAF event which raised over \$2,500 along with \$2,000 from the on-line store.

The upcoming year-round Stewardship program was explained and a communication to all members with their specific month are scheduled to be sent out shortly. The program will help with the planning and budgeting needs of the church as well as helping members get to know each other as well as helping with communication.

Annual Budget: Patty Notch explained the Executive Team had presented the budget to the Board, to the Financial Oversight Committee for review and comment, as well as three budget forums were held. It was moved by Patty Notch to approve the Budget as presented.

Discussion included reopening of the church and related costs. It was noted that steps had been taken to update the band width to allow for in-person/Zoom meetings.

Vote as presented. Adopted via voicemail vote.

Greg Nichols recognized outgoing Board members: Sue Huber, Mike Lauer and Heidi Mannerter.

New Business: none

Closing words were provided from Patty Notch, meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.