

Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Congregational Meeting
April 28, 2017
7:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

The annual church meeting was held on Friday, April 28, 2017. The Board President, Michele Hendrickson, chaired the meeting. Also present were board members: Treasurer, Wendy Tanner; and members-at-large Lorrie Eaton, Mary Anne Trause, Martha Nicoloff, Jim Anest, and Linda Selsor.

7:00 Opening

Lorrie Eaton

President, Michele Hendrickson verified a Quorum with the assistance of James Anest and Martha Nicoloff. 90 Members were present, 40 more than our minimum quorum of 55 members.

President Michele Hendrickson requested a Motion to declare the President of Board of Trustees act as Presiding officer of Congregational meeting. A motion was made and seconded. Motion passed by verbal vote.

Jim Anest led the congregation in reciting the OUUC Covenant.

Michele Hendrickson requested approval of the December, 2016 Congregational Meeting Minutes. There were no objections or amendments and the minutes were accepted as written.

Linda Selsor reported that a task force was formed to respond to member concerns about how Roberts Rules guidelines were used at church meetings. Michele thanked Jack Jackson, Brian Coyne, Jeff Goltz, Neil Marsh, and Linda Selsor for reviewing and making recommendations to modify the bylaws to bring them into closer compliance with our actual practice of use of Robert's Rules of Order, 11th Edition.

Proposed Bylaw Changes:

Amending Bylaw 4. Congregational Meetings, Section IV. Conduct of Business

- A. The President of the Board shall preside at Congregational meetings or designate another member of the Board to preside.
- B. ~~The latest revision of Robert's Rules of Order 11th edition~~ shall be the parliamentary authority. The Presiding Officer may also look to Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised in Brief 2nd edition to govern all procedural issues during meetings.
- C. The Congregation may adopt additional standing rules of procedure that apply to all Congregational meetings, or special rules of procedure that apply to a single Congregational meeting, that take precedence over Robert's Rules.

Amending Bylaw 5. Board of Trustees, Section V. Meeting Notice and Procedure

- H. ~~The latest revision of Roberts Rules of Order 11th edition~~ will govern procedure at Board shall be the parliamentary authority. The Board may look to Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised in Brief 2d edition to govern all procedural issues during meetings.

Michele read the bylaw changes and asked for a motion to approve the recommended by-law changes as presented. A motion to approve the changes as presented was made and seconded. The motion passed.

Jeff Goltz, Chair of the Leadership Development Committee (LDC) proposed a slate of 3 candidates to the Board of Trustees. The Candidates are John Tafejian, Fritz Wrede and Don Melnick. Each candidate is being nominated to serve a 3 year term. Jeff asked for a motion from the floor to approve the slate of candidates. A motion to approve the slate as presented was made and seconded. The motion passed. Jeff also thanked parting board members Lorrie Eaton, Alice Curtis and Mary Anne Trause.

Jeff Goltz thanked the LDC members, Tom Best, Samantha Ritchie, Karmel Shields, Wil Wrede and Jeff Goltz for their work over the past year. He also thanked Community Coordinator Bonnie Guyer Graham for her support to the committee. He appreciated Karmel's work to create the gratitude garden wall hanging. Karmel, Wil and Jeff are rotating off of the committee. Jeff presented a slate of 3 new LDC Members, each to serve a 2 year term. They include Des McGahern, Melanie Ransom and Connie Ruhl. A motion to approve the slate as presented was made and seconded. The motion passed.

Michele Hendrickson announced that the board asked Carol McKinley to serve as a bridge minister until our interim minister starts this upcoming fall. Carol will provide sermons, work with worship arts and pastoral care. Attendees gave Carol a standing ovation and rousing round of applause. Carol stated that she is honored to serve this faith community and looks forward to her new role as our bridge minister this summer. She's open to hearing from you and requested that members bring her questions, thoughts or concerns. Carol thanked the congregation for our support. She will start on May 10 and will continue until the interim minister begins.

Linda Selsor gave an update on the interim minister search process. We are seeking a minister to serve for a 1 year period with an option to renew for a 2nd year, which is inline with most interim contract terms. She reported that Nancy Brickell, Riley McLaughlin and Sharon Love are serving as the interim selection team and thanked them for agreeing to be on the committee. We will receive candiate names on May 1 or 2, and select our final candidate on May 12. There are 26 churches looking for interim ministers and 68 ministerial candidates. If we don't find a match, we will go to a 2nd selection round which starts on May 15. Candidates for this round will be slected by May 30. This is a very short turn around time to interview, and check backgrounds and ministerial records. Linda is providing technical support but will not be voting. The Board will take a recommendation from the committe and is responsible for hiring the interim minister.

The expectations of the interim minister will be different than our last interim. We won't revisit items accomplished during the last interim period. We are seeking someone who is strong in the pulpit and will inspire us. They will also need to help us work thorough our feelings about our recent minister's mutually agreed upon resignation and provide a strong pastoral presence. We seek a minister who is a servant leader, works collaboratively, values the work we've done to restructure our ministries, and will work closely with staff. We will ask this interim minister to be a consultant vs. a change agent. Interim ministers cannot be called to serve a congregation after the interim ends.

Michele reminded us that the congregatiaon calls the minister and the board is responsible for hiring the minister. The board anticipates a search committee selection process similar to the last search team process.

Tim Ransom reported on the status of decision making for the B&G annex. He provided background information about the annex and its uses over the years. The Board established a

task force led by Alice Curtis to discuss the future of the annex. The task force included Carolyn Keck, Steve Tilley, Tim Ransom, Don Melnick and Linda Witcher. The task force created a list of options for sale and continued uses, and considered tax implications, identified other non-profits to acquire the property, assessed the interest of land trusts, reviewed the current status of the septic system, discussed limitations we might set about how the property might be used if we sold it, impact on wetlands, zoning issues, costs associated with possible actions, property lines, the value of property as an investment, use for expansion of OUUC, and the interest of neighbors in the property. They consulted with a realtor, the City of Olympia, Homes First, and the Building & Grounds Committee. Our Ends were considered as well as fiscal responsibility in developing the various options. The task force presented a list of options to the board. The Board will provide the proposed options at upcoming informational meetings, to be scheduled in May.

On Friday, June 2, there will be congregational meeting to vote on which option to select, based on guidance received at the informational meetings. We may prioritize the options in case our first option doesn't work out.

Mary Anne Trause reported on results from board sponsored linkage meetings. Martha Nicoloff, Jim Anest, Lorrie Eaton and Mary Anne Trause hosted the meetings. 80 people attended. A broad spectrum of the congregation attended.

In summary, a year ago the congregation agreed on 6 End Statements which targeted what we hope to accomplish. Linkage meetings were designed to make ends come alive in concrete ways. Questions asked included 'What is your heart's desire for OUUC?' There were many ideas shared and board members synthesized them into 5 themes for how to implement our ends:

- Spirituality as the heart of congregational life
- Providing a welcoming community to all who belong to OUUC and those who long for a spiritual home.
- Connecting through deep listening and outreach.
- Leading in social action.
- Enhancing our infrastructure so we can thrive as an institution.

The [Linkage Meeting Report](#) is available online. The results will be given to the accountable persons who lead our 5 ministries and they will find ways to carry out these initiatives. Accountable persons will report progress at our December congregational meeting.

8:20 Closing and adjournment

Martha Nicoloff

Michele Hendrickson, President

Wendy Tanner, Treasurer and substitute secretary
for Helen Henry