

UUFM Annual Meeting Minutes for Review
April 26, 2020

Topic: UUFM 2020 Annual Business Meeting

Time: Apr 26, 2020 12:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

(Introductory material: 12:05 Mark Mayfield starts.

Lily Coburn gives overview of Zoom. (Keep chat for official business only.) Voting intro. Practice poll.

Clarification: If signed book less than 30 days, not yet official member. All others who have signed the membership book may vote.

Quorum, need 48.

We have a quorum. (Chris Bailey)

Relaunched poll #1 to check quorum. **52 of 60 respond.** co-hosts are not on poll. Co-hosts will put vote in chat to Lily and secretary will record.

Parliamentarian: Marisa Larson

12:20 meeting comes to order.

Opening Words--Rev. Jonalu Johnstone: Love that overcomes all obstacles. Spirit of this meeting in that love.

Welcome and announcements:

President's report: Mark Mayfield. Much is happening, Jonalu retirement, Barry Finkelstein workshops, thanks the board and members for service and help.

Minister's Report (Rev. Jonalu Johnstone): Report in detail on website.

We are in a different time, changes everything, but much remains true.

KSU impact on our finances. She knew the Fellowship had prior financial issues. Jonalu offered to move to 3/4 time, an offer that board accepted reluctantly. Jonalu thanks the board and congregation for support and interaction. "We are the church." She is pleased to be with us.

DRE Report (Sandy Nelson): Post will be in RE blog section.

Sandy thanks everyone for support of RE program, families and congregation. We have over 2 dozen people who consistently help and volunteer. At least 60 students year-round. Sandy is sad now to not be able to see them, but some on RE blog and in a Zoom picture.

Membership: 119 active members

Facilities Report (Dan Swenson) Thanks helpers. Had a May 4 workday. In July, the roof was fixed. Bid for brickwork is on hold right now. Dan thanks Doug Walters for video set-up for streaming, Gene on Alsop room door. On Oct. 12, put asphalt on drive, walk to Memorial Garden. Sylvia got snow removal scheduled and grass mowing. Made bid for carpet cleaning. In the Alsop room, tiles are coming up. Mark thanks Dan.

Consent agenda. The consent agenda includes the following:

- 1) approval of the [minutes of the 2019 Annual Congregational Meeting](#)
- 2) approval of the [minutes of the October 2019 Congregation Meeting](#)
- 3) approval of the slate of nominees to the board

Chair elect: Judy Nickelson

Treasurer: Dan Swenson

At-large: Gene Sievers and Diedre Greiley

The draft minutes of the 2019 annual congregation meeting and the minutes of the October congregational meeting are linked to this document above

Mark Mayfield: reviews how we will proceed. Seeks **motion to approval consent agenda.**

Chris Bailey moved to approve consent agenda. Second Cybil

Put up poll: *How do you vote on the motion to approve the consent agenda?*

53 approve. Vote unanimous.

Motion carries. Consent agenda approved.

Congregation approval to adopt new Vision and Mission (Jessica Sievers)

The proposed mission and vision were published in the January 2020 Newsletter, were approved by unanimous vote of the board in the February board meeting. The congregation has to approve changes to the Mission by 2/3 majority. The text is as follows:

Mission: *"We are dedicated to challenging ourselves and society into wholeness"*

Vision: *"A vibrant, inclusive congregation, UUFM is widely known as a safe haven and a force for social justice"*

Jessica reports on Barry Finkelstein's workshops: Evening session and all day. Congregation as a whole came up with material that was developed into mission and vision statements. Thanks everyone:

Mark explains why we need to vote on the mission, not vision as per our bylaws.

Motion to adopt vision statement: Jessica Sievers, Second Rob Morrison.

Motion moved and seconded.

Poll: *Vote on the motion to adopt vision statement:*

72 yes, 0 no, 3 abstain.

Motion carries. Vision statement is adopted.

Motion to adopt mission statement: Susan Adamchack moved. Second, Judy Nickelson.

Discussion: Concern about clarity. Emphasized Barry said it should be brief. Reviewed existing statement.

Dick: If vote fails, what does it mean?

Dan Swenson proposes Amending motion:

We are an evolving religious community dedicated to challenging ourselves and society into wholeness.”

Mark: refers to Marisa for parliamentary procedure.

Jonalu: steps: Motion to amend, vote on motion to amend, then go forward.

Dan Swenson: **withdraws motion verbally.**

Jessica: noted material has been posted, did not get such feedback.

Katie: Will need a year to redo.

Discussion continues.

Dan withdraws his amendment on chat

The question is called.

Marisa: motion is to call the question of the mission statement as presented.

Discussion continues.

Clarify: Raise hands if in favor of calling previous question. If hand raised to call the question to close discussion.

Raised hands: 48 (approximately) in favor, 3 opposed.

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Calling the question approved. Will vote on the question.

Current participants: Lily 73 participating

Poll: *Vote on the motion to adopt the mission statement:*

24 yes

34 no

8 abstain

Motion to adopt mission statement fails.

Approval of the proposed 2020/2021 budget.

Scott Tanona:

- Reviews original proposal and what has been the result.
- Have had growth, income, but not enough to maintain full-time minister.
- Have covered the gap with endowment.
- Gap between pledges, total income, and expenses.
- Increases: membership has gone up, but a drop recently (counting membership differently) Has not added additional monies. Pledging per unit has increased, but not to the path we need.

- Ministerial services (Jonalu's offer) 3/4 times closes the gap significantly.
- Responsible use of endowment can work with 3/4 time minister, sustainable use of endowment.

Approval of the search for a settled 3/4 time minister

- The board recommends the approval of a search to hire of a 3/4 time settled minister to start upon Jonalu's retirement.
- Settled ministry
- No more than \$15,000, funds from the endowment, approval by the board within its 5% withdrawal limit
- Up to \$15,000 for moving expenses in FY21/22

Settled ministry is different from any ministry we've had before. Jonalu is a developmental minister and previous ministers have been contract ministers. Settled ministry is a long-term commitment between congregation and minister and therefore is a more involved process.

Mark Mayfield reviews Ministerial Search board proposal presented to congregation earlier: The board proposes that the fellowship hire a 3/4 time settled minister to begin after Jonalu's retirement (August 2021). For this to occur, the congregation needs to approve the search." Reviews the implications of the costs.

Mark: Is there a motion to approve search for 3/4 time settled minister.
Marisa Move, Rob second
Call for discussion.

Jonalu explains settled minister (regular, open-ended commitment, until congregation or minister agrees they are done. Developmental more a contract. Jonalu originally had a 3-year contract that was continued. Obligation just through contact period. Another options is for an interim minister, 1-3 years to make the transition.

Jonalu agrees with the recommendation of the board to go into search, for 3/4 rather than full time.

John Exdell: what are the implications of 3/4 time?

Jonalu: can most clearly do with taking off one week a month. Can do with strong lay leadership. Will likely be negotiations with new minister as to what that means. Discussion as to what that means for the lay leadership.

Mark Mayfield clarifies: Vote will include agreeing to move into the search and to spend the money to do that. Unless there are other targeted donation to fund that search.

This vote entails these costs. It will be up to \$30,000 from the endowment over the course of two fiscal years. Could have targeted campaign to cover costs.

Jonalu: (In answer to question about 1/2 time.) In order to use the UUA search process, must be searching for 3/4 time or full time.

Les: explains what the costs entail.

Jonalu clarifies costs of pre-candidates and candidates.

Taryn votes on calling the question (to end the discussion.)

Raise hands to call the question. Majority (Not definite count.)

Raise hand to not call the question. 1

Motion carries to call the question.

Those in favor of calling 3/4 settled minister, vote with poll.

Motion: *Vote on the motion to approve the search for a 3/4 time settled minister to replace Jonalu upon her retirement:*

57 yes, 0 No, 1 abstain.

Motion carries. Search for 3/4 minister approved.

Financial Status: Eli Martinson presents slides showing Financial Status, Endowment, status of current budget, end of March. Needs for operations.

To meet total need currently, based on bylaws, the board can use 5% of endowment.

Projects we will need under \$14,000.

Board seeking approval up to \$20,000 out of endowment.

Factors:

- Applied for small business loan. (Explanation by DanSwenson and Elias.)
- Success in Grow Green.
- This is for current fiscal year through May 31.

Endowment distribution. Approval of the use of UP TO \$20,000 in endowment funds to fund the current year's budget.

*Use of SBA loan

Mark and Eli: may need to use endowment fund and replace some if loan comes through.

Motion to approve use of \$20,000 in endowment funds to fund the current year's budget.

Cybil move, Katleen Oldfather second

Discussion:

Banner: shortfall? Explained by Mark and Eli.

Vote on Motion: *Vote to approve the motion for the treasurer to withdraw funds from the expendable endowment to cover operating expenses (not to ex \$20,000.)*

61yes, 0 no. 3 abstentions.

Motion carries. Withdrawal of funds from endowment approved.

Approval of Budget:

Eli clarifying: approving taking money from endowment.

Question: Cybil: If loan from SBA approved, what would Jonalu's salary be?

Eli: Not clear yet

Jonalu: flexible and will do what we want her to do.

Larry: Reminds us to let Fellowship know if we do get to put money back in.

Mark: any more discussion about budget?

Item: Approval of proposed budget

Kathleen tonona approved to approve budget as presented. Rob Morrison second

Poll: *Vote on the motion to approve the budget as presented:*

47 yes, 0 no, 2 abstain

Motion carries. Budget approved.

Ministerial search committee. We'll need to move ahead with the approval of the search committee regardless of the result of the kind of minister search we approve.

Motion for approval of Ministerial search committee nominees.

Anna move, Kathleen Tanona second.

(used original poll from consent agenda. Unanimous approval. 64-0-0)

Motion carries. Ministerial search committee approved.

New Business:

Where do we go from here? Michael Oldfather initiated informal pledge drive to help us not having to delve into endowment to continue. Candidates will be looking into our finances. Will do unusual pledge through virtual (electronic) contact. He encourages donations. Thanks the generosity of the group. Especially in trying economic conditions. Encourages considering including endowment contributions in our final documents.

Mark thanks Michael for efforts.

Betty thanks all for effort to put meeting together.

Mark thanks team.

Move to adjourn, Kathleen Oldfather, second Doug Walter

Officially adjourned 2:18

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