

# **Westside Unitarian Universalist Church**

## **Congregational Meeting Minutes - June 12, 2022**

1. Rev. Don Strickland welcomed the congregation, made opening remarks, and lit the chalice.
2. The meeting was called to order at 12:35 p.m. by President Marc Hart.
3. Ken Leising, chair of the Right Relations team, read the Right Relations Covenant and discussed the need for members to interact respectfully.
4. Cindy Fountain verified a quorum. Approximate attendance was 43 voting members. A Zoom option was available.
5. The minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting were approved by committee and are posted on the church website. Marc appointed Reed Bilz, Carol Cappa, Caroline Nixon to approve the minutes of the meeting.
6. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Marc Hart**
  - A. Marc noted that several members have recently passed away in the last two years. He recognized several members for their contributions, including AV team members Jeff Rodriguez and Eric Hart, Pastoral Care chair and DLRE Nicci Kennedy, Reed Bilz, new administrator Celeste Garcia-Lockridge, and board member Sue Anderson. He noted that we have installed a new security system. Marc recognized Dianne Nixon for her work developing the courtyard garden, and Tanner Task for leading the Transition Team and their work to find the new contract minister.
7. **DLRE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Nicci Kennedy**
  - A. Nicci noted how important it was to be in community and have connection, and how important this has been during another year of Covid. DLRE tried several new things this year, including gathering in the backyards of a member's home, playing fun games, an all-church swim party and holding a "pirate party" in the park. The kids also did craft activities outside so that there would be less risk of virus transmission. The church held a campout for the first time in several years, and OWL classes resumed for the first time in three years. Most important, church youth had many opportunities for thoughtful, in-person conversation and fellowship. Nicci thanked the many people who volunteered their time. She called on each member to help create a dynamic church that truly welcomes everyone, and to help create the kind of church, and be the kind of adults, we wish we had had when we were growing up.
8. **TREASURER'S REPORT – Dwight Roberts**
  - A. The church is projected to end this year with a surplus of approximately \$65,000.
  - B. Through May 31, Westside members gave \$6,700 in plate offerings.
  - C. For the third consecutive year, the proposed budget is a deficit budget, and will be relying on money from the Betty Sanders Fund to cover the deficit. The challenge for the church is to grow our income before the Sanders Fund has been fully depleted.

**9. PRESENTATION OF 2022-23 BUDGET – Stephanie Jeffers**

- A. Despite having 18 percent fewer pledges, we had only a 1.2 percent reduction in the amount of money pledged. In addition, the average pledge increased nearly \$500.
- B. The budget calls for a 5.9 percent increase in employee salaries.
- C. Most committees will see a reduction in their budgets. The exceptions are Adult Religious Education, Children’s Religious Education, Worship, and Building and Grounds.
- D. We will reduce our payment of UUA from the previous 75 percent to 25 percent.
- E. \$1,000 has been allocated for Tech and AV, which includes the new security system.
- F. We are projected to draw \$95,000 from the Betty Sanders Fund to balance our budget.
- G. The \$65,000 surplus from the current fiscal year budget will be incorporated into the next budget once the fiscal year has concluded, and the board will decide how to use any remaining funds, which will help offset the withdrawal from the Betty Sanders Fund.
- H. Total operating expenses increased from \$284,225 to \$320,174.
- I. Discussion followed.
- J. Stephanie Jeffers moved to adopt the proposed budget for FY 2022-2023.
- K. Marc called for a vote on the budget. Since it was presented by the committee, a second was not required. CARRIED.

**10. VOTING ON AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS - Marc**

- A. Proposed amendment permitting the Endowment Committee to reallocate our investments, increasing the exposure in stocks.
- B. Proposed amendment permitting the Endowment Committee to increase investments on funds that focus on Environmental, Social, and Governance (“ESG”) issues.
- C. Marc called for a vote the amendments. Since they were presented by the committee, a second was not required. CARRIED.
- D. See attachment for full reading of the amendments.
- E. Proposed amendment revising the bylaws regarding the hiring of a contract minister and/or a settled minister.
- F. Cindy Fountain made a motion to table the amendments regarding the bylaws pertaining to the minister. Seconded and CARRIED.

**11. ELECTION OF NEW BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS – Caroline Nixon**

- A. Caroline presented the proposed slate of officers (see below) and called for further nominations from the floor. There being none, CARRIED. Officers are listed below.
- B. Caroline presented the slate of members for the Endowment, Nominations, and Leadership Development committees and called for further nominations from the floor. There being none, CARRIED.
- C. Caroline called for ratification of the board appointments to the Audit Committee. CARRIED.

**12. Rev. Strickland made closing remarks.**

ADJOURNED AT 1:45 p.m.

**2022-23 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President: Dayna Tooley

Vice President: Kim Lucas Hart

Treasurer: Dwight Robarts

Secretary: Jeff Rodriguez

Directors at large: Sue Anderson, Glenda Hood, Michael Muñoz, Dianne Nixon, Melissa Trask

Sue Anderson and Glenda Hood will be serving the second year of their terms as directors.

Veronica Muñoz will serve as non-voting youth liaison.

**NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Endowment Committee: Greg Tooley, Donald Canard, Bob Vann, Spencer Maxwell, and Barbara Crotty

Audit Committee: Reed Bilz, Donald Canard, and Rocio Sarmiento Ayala.

Nominating Committee: Janna Canard, Kim Hart, Lauren Leising, Pete Meador, and Caroline Nixon.