

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia

Draft4 MINUTES Annual Meeting of the Congregation, June 2, 2024

Attendance

Carita Barr, Mel Barrington, Sheldon Bon, Abigail Brandon, Linda Brennison, Karen Brown, Rod Brown, Sylvia Brown, Jean Capalbo, Bruce Chavious, Thomas Clements, Jason Cobb, Ivy Coleman, Donald Cooper, Peck Drennan, Rebecca Drennan, Marc Drews, Patty Drews, Caroline Eastman, James Ellisor, Sylvia Ellisor, Alma Engle, John Farley, Maura Farley, Glenn Farr, Yolanda Ganong, Elizabeth Gillespie, Robert Gillespie, Anita Grossman, Katharine Heald, George Johnson, Jim Kimbler, Janice Kline, Susan LeGacy, John Logue, Mary Maclachlan, Morgan Maclachlan, Mary Martin, William Martin, Deb Matherly, Linda McLeod, Richard McLeod, Anne Mellen, Laura Miller, Steve Miller, Lee Minghi, Pat Mohr, David Roof, Tiffany Rushton, Robin Scherer, Nancie Shillington-Perez, Larry Siegel, Jenifer Anne Slater, Melody Smit, David Stevens, Michael Sullivan, Lis Turner, Philip Turner, Timothy VanDenBerg, Ginny Verne, Jim Verne, Jeanette Walton, Joan Watterson (63 members)
Additional non-voting friends and visitors attended the meeting.

Call to Order

A Quorum was established. Marc Drews (President) called the meeting to order at 12:25 pm and asked Rev Robinson to light the chalice, which he did. Marc introduced Jim Ellisor as Parliamentarian for the meeting.

Agenda

Marc explained he would like to amend the agenda to include consideration of a minor bylaws change to bring the responsibilities of the Leadership Development Committee in-line with what they do and with the intentions of bylaws changes approved last year which reduced the number of board members. Marc asked if there was any objection to revising the agenda. There being no objection, the agenda was deemed duly approved.

Bylaws change

The proposed bylaws would read as shown below (the underlined text is the revised text). With no objection, the proposed bylaws change was deemed duly approved.

Section 8. COMMITTEES

8.1 Standing Committees

(i) Leadership Development Committee – The Leadership Development Committee shall consist of the Past President of the Congregation, one voting member of the Board chosen by the Board, and three members elected by the Congregation. The Committee shall select its own Chair. Elected members will serve staggered two-year terms. At each Annual Meeting, the Leadership Development Committee shall nominate individuals for the following offices:

- (i) President-Elect
- (ii) Secretary (in even-numbered years)
- (iii) Treasurer (in odd-numbered years)
- (iv) Trustee (two at every annual meeting)
- (v) The members of next year's Leadership Development Committee
- (vi) The members of next year's Endowment Fund Committee

Approval of Minutes

Marc asked if anyone had any corrections to make to the minutes of the June 4, 2023 Annual Meeting of the Congregation. There being none, the minutes were deemed duly approved.

Receiving Annual Reports of Committees

The Annual reports from the standing committees were received. Marc noted that the three primary goals set by the Board were achieved this past year: supporting CYRE and programs for families; building our leadership capacity; and increasing UUCU visibility in the wider community.

2024-25 Budget (FY2025)

Ginny Verne, Chair of the Finance Committee (FC), presented the budget for 2024-25. She explained the budgeting process, and why the Finance Committee is recommending a \$17K deficit budget this year: (a) the congregation is rapidly growing right now, so this is the time to invest in our future; (b) UUCU has ample cash reserves to cover the deficit; and (c) the congregation has a history of readily stepping up to meet any needs that arise.

Ginny noted that two concerns about the proposed budget had surfaced: (1) Disagreement about the \$6K allocation to the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Annual Program Fund (APF), and (2) concern about deficit spending becoming a “slippery slope.” With regard to the UUA APF, while some people support paying the full “fair share” amount requested by the UUA (approximately \$13.9K), others want to greatly reduce the allocation to zero. \$6K was an amount arrived at through compromise. With regard to “slippery slope,” the FC recommendation is to have an intentional budget deficit for one year only. The UUCU has ample undesignated funds on hand (\$118K in Money Market funds) to cover this deficit. Ginny noted that this past year, undesignated funds were used to meet unanticipated emergent needs, including (a) putting in new playground equipment, (b) replacing air conditioner equipment, and (c) creating a fund to meet the occasional extraordinary expense that arises for building and grounds maintenance.

Kate Heald asked how the UUA APF amount of \$6K was arrived at. Ginny explained that an initial amount of \$12K was proposed. A congregational meeting was held in April to get feedback. The Finance Committee worked on the budget some more, then met with the board Executive Committee, at which time a compromise was worked out. The board approved the revised budget. Ginny noted that the board can reassign up to 5% of the budget. Ginny noted that if anyone feels strongly about making a change, she recommends communicating this to the board, and that a congregational meeting be held to make the decision.

Marc noted that the proposed budget was a motion from the board and called for a vote (carried without opposition).

Leadership Development Committee (LDC) Nominations and Election

On behalf of the LDC, Nancie Shillington-Perez (Chair), nominated members to fill the following board positions, beginning July 1, 2024:

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|---------|
| George Johnson | President-Elect | 2024-27 |
| Kate Heald | Secretary | 2024-26 |
| Alma Engle | Trustee | 2024-26 |
| Matt Donahue | Trustee | 2024-26 |
| Robin Scherer | Trustee | 2024-25 |

Marc asked if there were any nominations from the floor, and there were none. Nancie requested that the nominations be accepted by acclamation. A vote was taken (carried without opposition).

Nancie then presented the LDC’s slate of nominees as follows:

Endowment Fund Committee

| | |
|---------------|---------|
| Janae Walton | 2024-27 |
| Melissa Engle | 2024-27 |

Leadership Development Committee

| | |
|-----------------|---------|
| Linda Brennison | 2024-25 |
| Janice Kline | 2024-26 |

Marc stated that further nominations from the floor were not allowed. Nancie requested that the nominations be accepted by acclamation. Marc called for a vote to accept the nominations by acclamation. (carried without opposition)

Adjourn

In closing, Marc noted that the 75th Anniversary of the UUCU would be taking place next year. He thanked everyone for their participation, extinguished the chalice, and adjourned the meeting at 12:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Karen Brown, Secretary