

**Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**June 14, 2020 - Draft**

Governing Board President Bradley Shipps announced that quorum has been established.

Reverend Leah Ongiri, associate minister, led the chalice lighting.

Bradley Shipps welcomed everyone to the Fellowship's first virtual annual meeting, and called the meeting to order.

John Duffin from the Healthy Congregation team read Principles for a Healthy Congregation. John thanked Debbie Wagner, who is stepping off the Healthy Congregation Team, for serving on the team for seven years.

Bradley explained the procedure for discussion topics and the process for discussion during motions. After a topic is presented, Bradley will ask for a motion. Participants can use the raised hand feature and the chat for discussion. Discussion will not be limited. Please keep questions and remarks on topic. Amendments may be proposed. When the discussion is finished, Bradley will submit the current motion for inclusion on the ballot. A link to the Survey Monkey ballots will be emailed to all members in attendance after the meeting. Members will have 72 hours after the link is emailed to complete and submit their ballots.\*\*

The minutes from the 2019 Annual Meeting were presented.

Mary Gerlach moved to approve the 2019 Annual Meeting minutes as written, Amanda Kramp seconded. There were no questions. Bradley submitted the motion for inclusion on the ballot.

Bradley Shipps made reference to the Governing Board Report in the written Annual Report. Bradley thanked outgoing Board members Jenny Bush, Terry Dawson, and Linda Grishaber for their work.

Reverend Christina Leone-Tracy, senior minister, thanked everyone for their support throughout the year. The Executive Team (X-Team) comprised of Rev. Leah Ongiri, Rev. Christina Leone-Tracy, and Director of Finance and Operations Phyllis Schmitt, is tasked with creating and interpreting operational policies. The Fellowship has seven ends developed from our mission and vision. The Governing Board directs the ends and the X-Team establishes the means.

Rev. Christina thanked everyone for attending and Bradley Shipps for leading the meeting. Christina highlighted the celebration for our minister emeritus the Rev. Roger Bertschausen, which was marked with festivities and the establishment of the Bertschausen Teaching Ministry Fund. The Fellowship has hired our first full time intern minister, Ali Peters, who will begin their student ministry with us in the coming year.

The Governing Boards focused on stewardship throughout the year and worked with consultant Mark Ewert to continue improving our stewardship process.

This year the Fellowship upgraded the wifi service, the website, made software updates, and purchased new computers, with upgraded operating systems for staff. The pandemic reinforced our under resourced staffing and technology.

Christina noted her written report and thanked staff and outgoing Governing Board members.

Working closely with Phyllis Schmitt, Treasurer Theresa Hannah noted that a review of the Fellowship's financial records shows that income exceeds expenses by about \$20,000. Expenses are below budget. Currently, most pledge payments continue to arrive on schedule. Theresa thanked Phyllis for working hard to secure a payroll protection loan for the Fellowship. Theresa highlighted that over \$29,000 was raised for the Bertschausen Teaching Fund.

In the coming fiscal year the Stewardship and Planned Giving committees will combine. Theresa noted that a survey about the endowment fund will be sent to Acorn Society members.

The Audit Committee welcomed Melanie Hunt as a new team member. The Audit Committee has no major concerns to report.

Theresa Hannah explained the proposed 2020-2021 month to month budgeting process. Reasonable estimates for our budget for next year can't be based on tenuous information. Our by-laws include restrictions on how money is spent. In the proposed process, the Executive Team will present projections for the next three months and the Governing Board will review the projections and approve the budget for the month.

The month to month budgeting process proposal will appear on the ballot as follows: The Fellowship's bylaws require that the congregation approve a budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1. However, with so many in our community facing financial uncertainty and hardship at this time, it is very difficult to project the Fellowship's revenue for the next fiscal year. The Governing Board recommends that the Congregation authorize the Board to conduct a month-to-month budgeting process for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

In the new budget, there are no salary increases for staff, dues to the UUA and MidAmerica Region remain at 2019-2020 rates, reduction of professional expenses, and some program expenses. We are also looking at the feasibility of refinancing our mortgage.

Lori Reblin moved to authorize a month-to-month budgeting process for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, GinaMaria Opalescent seconded.

During the discussion, several questions were addressed. Phyllis Schmitt posts monthly financial updates on the Fellowship's website and a link is included in the newsletter. The Governing Board President periodically writes feature newsletter articles with information about Governing Board activities.

Bradley submitted the motion for inclusion on the ballot.

Leadership Development Committee Chair, Justin Fisher, presented the slate of leadership candidates and explained that leadership candidates are nominated by the leadership development committee, with the governing board candidates passing confidential background checks as part of the governance policy.

### **Governing Board**

Governing Board Vice President (2020-2021), Jeff Miller  
Governing Board Secretary (2020-2022), Lisa O'Connor  
Governing Board Member at Large (2020-2022), Marie Rohrer  
Governing Board Member at Large (2020-2022), Pat Mitchell

### **Leadership Development Committee**

Jerry Behrendt (2020-2022)  
Veronica Flower (2020-2022)

Justin thanked outgoing Governing Board members Terry Dawson, Linda Grishaber, and Jenny Bush, and outgoing Leadership Development Committee members Mary K Knox and Brian Piasecki for their service.

There were no other nominations.

Karen Riggers moved to approve the candidates for Governing Board as presented by the Leadership Development Committee, GinaMaria Opalescent seconded.

There is only one candidate per position and the motion includes the entire slate of Governing Board candidates.

Revered Christina Leone-Tracy addressed a question about nominating a police officer for the Governing Board considering the current climate in the country. Christina spoke personally to her experience working with Jeff Miller as an officer and Fellowship leader. Jeff is deeply thoughtful and aware of the flaws in our policing system. He is a deeply principled UU on the local force who is working for change.

Bradley submitted the slate of candidates for the Governing Board for inclusion on the ballot.

Alex Frantz moved to approve the Leadership Development Candidates as presented by the Leadership Development Committee, Dana Johnson seconded.

There were no other nominations and no discussion.

Bradley submitted the slate of candidates for the Leadership Development Committee for inclusion on the ballot.

Bradley thanked everyone for their presence and participation and adjourned the meeting.

\*\*The 2019 annual meeting minutes, month-to-month budget proposal, and 4 governing board & 2 leadership development committee candidates were overwhelmingly approved on Wednesday, June 17. 111 of the 146 registered voting members attending our virtual annual meeting on Sunday, June 14, and 2 members voting absentee, cast their ballots.

\*Minutes reviewed by the Governing Board and Executive Team June 2020.