

**Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**June 5, 2022 - DRAFT**

Governing Board President Jeff Miller announced that quorum has been established.

Theresa Hannah led the chalice lighting.

Jeff Miller welcomed everyone to the in person and virtual annual meeting, thanked everyone for attending, and called the meeting to order.

John Duffin from the Healthy Congregation team read Principles for a Healthy Congregation.

Jeff explained the procedure for discussion topics and the process for discussion during motions. After a topic is presented, Jeff will ask for a motion. Participants online 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, Jeff 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 2021 Annual Meeting were presented.

Samantha Zinth moved to approve the 2021 Annual Meeting minutes as written, Ronna Swift seconded. There were no questions. Jeff submitted the motion for inclusion on the ballot.

Jeff Miller made reference to the Governing Board Report in the written Annual Report and noted that questions for the Governing Board can be emailed to [fvuufboard@fvuuf.org](mailto:fvuufboard@fvuuf.org). Jeff thanked outgoing Board members Bradley Shipps, Lisa O'Connor, and Samantha Zinth for their work.

Ali Peters, assistant minister, reviewed the many highlights of the complex year and celebrated that we were able to gather in person once again. Ali spotlighted some accomplishments of the year including the new technology equipment that allows for multi platform options in worship, programs, and meetings, and adding another AV tech, Jonathan Steffen. Ali noted that the Governing Board has worked hard to keep us moving forward toward our goals and began the process to update the mission and vision statements. The Generosity Ministry team spearheaded a successful pledge campaign, fundraising campaign, and an endowment campaign. The Immigration Justice team supported two asylum seeking families this year and the Green Sanctuary team successfully earned the UUA designation of Green Sanctuary for the Fellowship.

The Fellowship has weathered the departure of associate minister, Rev. Leah Ongiri, and after nearly 17 years, Marie Luna, director of congregational life, has ended her ministry with the

Fellowship. Assistant Minister Ali Peters will be transitioning out of her role here at the end of June to bring her ministry to a new congregation.

Treasurer Pat Mitchell noted the 2021-2022 projected budget deficit of \$87,000 but the building closure in early 2022 and frugal spending will reduce the deficit by approximately 40% this year. The PPP grant helped cover the shortfall but this is not sustainable. The Fellowship is migrating to a new stewardship model that engages more personally with members on an ongoing basis rather than an annual pledge drive. The Generosity Ministry team hosted a successful fundraising auction to repair the pond and replace the playground. The auction raised approximately \$8,000. Pat thanked the staff for their hard work and acknowledged Phyllis Schmitt for working tirelessly to make sure everything is managed well and for ensuring accurate numbers. Eric Riggers is the new chair of the Audit Committee. The financial reports are accurate.

Justin Fisher, leadership development committee chair, introduced the proposed bylaw amendment to change the term limits for Governing Board President. Justin noted that term limits is what keeps the community vibrant and provides balance. Presidents are currently limited to a single term and filling in for a year counts as the term. Allowing longer terms offers a better opportunity to get into the groove of leading.

Tom Pynenberg moved to approve the bylaw change as written, Eric Riggers seconded. There was no discussion. Jeff Miller submitted the motion for inclusion on the ballot.

Justin Fisher thanked the three members who are stepping off the Governing Board this year and Jerry Behrendt and Veronica Flowers who are stepping down from the Leadership Development Committee.

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 President (2022-2023, finishing second year of two-year term), Dana Johnson  
Governing Board Vice President (2022-2023), Jeff Miller  
Governing Board Secretary (2022-2024), Marie Rohrer  
Governing Board Member at Large (2022-2024), Amanda Stuck  
Governing Board Member at Large (2022-2024), Marti Wheeler

### **Leadership Development Committee**

Leadership Development Committee Member (2022-2024), Karen Iverson Riggers  
Leadership Development Committee Member (2022-2024), Doug Wheeler

There were no other nominations.

Mary Gerlach moved to approve the candidates for Governing Board and Leadership Development Committee as presented by the Leadership Development Committee, Penny Robinson seconded.

There were no questions or discussion.

Jeff submitted the slate of candidates for the Governing Board and Leadership Development Committee for inclusion on the ballot.

Samantha Zinth, Chair of the Assistant Minister Search Team, thanked Ali Peters for providing care, comfort, and assistance during the transition. Samantha announced that Rev. Hannah Roberts Villnave has accepted a two-year contract to be our new assistant minister beginning August 1, 2022. Rev. Hannah will assist with congregational life, pastoral care, and social justice. Watch the *Weekly Scroll* newsletter for opportunities to meet Rev. Hannah later this summer.

Samantha thanked team members David Gerlach, Brian Murton, Phyllis Schmitt, Staff Liaison, Bradley Shipp, Board Liaison, Tim Watson, and Marti Wheeler for leading this important work.

Governing Board Member at Large, Karen Bruno, presented an update on congregational life. Marie Luna worked diligently to document her major roles at the Fellowship. Existing staff will take on some of the main areas of responsibility and volunteers will assist with other needs. Karen offered information on volunteers who are helping with specific areas of congregational life.

Director of Finance and Operations, Phyllis Schmitt, presented the proposed 2022-2023 budget.

Phyllis noted a proposed deficit of just over \$40,000. Income projected is down roughly \$45,000 from prior year. Total income projected is \$662,931 based largely on pledges received as of May 27, 2022. This projection includes unpledged income, EFT payments, and a pledge revenue discount of 3% and an EFT discount of 6% in case folks drop off or can't complete their pledge.

The largest part of the budget remains personnel. We are not replacing the Director of Congregational Life position in this budget. We are not offering childcare for programs, there is a small reduction in staff professional expenses, and salaries remain flat. Elementary OWLS will not be offered this year. There is an increase for building and grounds and technology due to rising costs. UUA dues remain unchanged. We are projecting less of a deficit for the current year and hope to use leftover funds to offset the projected deficit for next year. We are grateful to everyone for their contributions and support.

Deb Andrews moved to approve the 2022-2023 budget as presented, Mark Marnocha seconded.

During the discussion, several questions were addressed. Currently there are no specific plans for a raffle fundraiser, but the Generosity Ministry team is considering options. It would cost approximately \$50-80,000 to replace the Director of Congregational Life position. Our membership is declining, folks are less engaged, and giving from members has leveled out. This is an overall trend for churches at this time. We need to help folks understand what it means to give to the Fellowship. A little over 50% of members pledge. We hope to continue offering two services during the program year. Seven people have joined the Acorn Society in 2022 and two significant donations to the endowment fund have been received. Phyllis highlighted the “By the Numbers” page of the annual report for folks to check out more information about the budget.

Jeff submitted the motion for inclusion on the ballot.

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

\*\*\*A total of 67 of the 90 registered voting members attending our annual meeting, in person and virtual on Sunday, June 5, 2022, and 5 members voting via absentee ballots, cast their ballots for:

- Approval of the 2021 annual meeting minutes
- Bylaw changes to Term of Office – to allow the President to serve 2 two-year terms
- 5 governing board & 2 leadership development committee candidates.
- 2022-2023 Proposed Annual Operating Budget

All were overwhelmingly approved!