

The First Unitarian Universalist Society in Newton  
Annual Meeting Minutes  
Sunday, June 6, 2021  
Conducted over Zoom

FUUSN Moderator Dwight Golann welcomed the congregation to the 175<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting; called the meeting to order at 11:47 a.m. Dwight stated that there is a quorum present. Rev. Erin Splaine gave an opening prayer.

Appreciations:

**Chris Krebs**

Budget drive co-chairs – Tom Bean, Brian Gill, Susan Bartlett

Stewards - Bill Horne, Brian Hicks, Urban Larson, Wendy Schwartz, Demi Stathoplos, Jonathan Lillienfeld, Linda Ross, Julia Huston, Karen Davis, Sharon Sisskind, Laurel Farnsworth, Pat Rohan, Saul Lookner, Todd Farrell

Finance Committee –Urban Larson, Karen Bottar, Brian Gill, Faith Kreider, Laurel Farnsworth, Judy Curby, Alan Cody

Operations Council - Susan Bartlett, Laurel Farnsworth, Jud Leonard, Eric Haas, Sharon Sisskind, Karen Bottar

Personnel Policy Committee – Karen Davis, Karen Burns, John Adkins

Board of Investments – David Griswold, Urban Larson, Devon Welles

Board of Trustees – Barbara Schmitt, Demi Stathoplos, Brian Hicks, Hattie Kerwin-Derrick, Kit Ryan (secretary), Christine Lookner (departing vice-chair), youth members Sienna Lerner Gill and Brian Burba.

**Susan Bartlett**

Operations Council Members – Laurel Farnsworth, Jud Leonard, Eric Hass, Karen Bottar, Linda Ross, and Sharon Sisskind, who is stepping down.

Staff members – Ann Watson Born, Amanda Graff, Fran Clancy, Rosemary Dean, Regina Knabe, Carson Cooman, Akela Franklin, Erin Splaine

**Dwight Golann**

Nominating Committee members – Wendy Schwartz, Danny Jones, Curt Lamb, Barbara Niles, Matt Ritter.

**Brian Hicks**

Members of the Legacy Circle  
 Honoring the lives and commitment of those lost in the past year – Anne Hartman, David Morocco, Judy Zacek

**Business:**

1. Vote to approve the 2020 Annual Meeting minutes of June 7, 2020. Jud Leonard moved to approve the minutes; Demi Stathoplos seconded, passed overwhelmingly.
2. Committee reports – Brenda Roberts moved to accept the reports, Andrea Kelley seconded, passed unanimously.
3. Wendy Schwartz presented the slate of candidates: Nominees:

**FUUSN 2021-2022 - Proposed Nominees and Continuing Officers**

*Updated 6/6/2021*

Position	Continuing (Not up for election this year)	Nominees for 2021-2022
<b>Board of Trustees</b>	<b>3-Year Terms</b>	
Board - continuing	Brian Hicks	
Board - continuing	Hattie Kerwin-Derrick	
Board		Stephanie Kendall
Board - continuing	Chris Krebs	
Board - continuing	Barbara Schmitt	
Board - re-election		Demie Stathoplos
High School Trustee	shared position	Tom Kisiel
High School Trustee		Naomi Wolfe
<b>Operations Council</b>	<b>3-Year Terms</b>	
Ops - continuing	Susan Bartlett	
Ops		Wayne Everett
Ops - re-election		Eric Haas
Ops - continuing	Laurel Farnsworth	

Ops - continuing	Jud Leonard	
<b>Board of Investment</b>	<b>3-Year Terms</b>	
Board of Investment		Jeff Ellis
Bd of Investment - continuing	Dave Griswold	
Bd of Investment - continuing	Devon Welles	
<b>One year terms</b>		
Moderator - re-election		Dwight Golann
Treasurer - re-election		Karen Bottar
Asst. Treasurer 1 - re-election		Faith Kreider
Asst. Treasurer 2		Urban Larson
Urban Ministry 1 - re-election		Judy Friedman
Urban Ministry 2 - re-election		Barbara Bates
Urban Ministry 3 - re-election		Robert Staulo
Clerk for the Board - re-election		Kit Ryan
Asst. Clerk for Ops - re-election		Linda Ross

Vote to approve the Nominating Committee slate of candidates. Barbara Bates moved to approve the slate; the motion was seconded; passed overwhelmingly. Discussion: Barbara Bates commented that Tom Kisiel and Naomi Wolfe are exceptionally strong youth nominees. Bobbie Sproat commended and thanked those Board of Trustees members who are willing to serve more than one term. Passed overwhelmingly, slate is approved.

#### 4. Budget FY2021-2022:

Susan Bartlett presented a brief overview of the budget process.

Budget development begins in late fall when the Board of Trustees sets broad goals objectives for the budget. Finance committee sets a 5-year projection. In February, the detailed budget begins to be prepared; committees submit requests; major categories are addressed (Buildings and Grounds, RE, staff compensation). The Finance Committee puts together the detailed budget in May. The Operations Council prepares budget narrative which goes to the Board of Trustees for their approval, and is then sent with the proposed budget to the congregation for approval at the annual meeting. The Finance Committee tracks the budget on a monthly basis and reports to the Operations Council.

Brian Gill, on behalf of the Finance Committee: Reunite and renew is this year's pledge slogan. Resilient and ready is the presentation slogan. FUUSN overall is in good shape.

- It takes ~\$900,000/year to run FUUSN, just over half goes for staff compensation. Next largest expense is Buildings and Grounds..
- Income: Majority comes from pledges and direct contributions; about 10% from rentals of building, 10% from earnings of the endowment.

Both operating and building reserves exceed the minimum balances of what is required, both now and projected for next year.

Specifics:

- No cuts to any of the budget requests.
- Unable to add staff.
- Staff will all receive raises for next year, and also received modest bonuses for the past year (they did not receive raises last year).
- Much of the good budget news is due to receipt of 2 Payroll Protection Plan loans; half has been approved as a grant, to date.
- The Pledge Drive brought in ~ \$600,000 (\$625,000 target) - one of the largest pledge totals FUUSN has ever received.
- Do not see any evidence of structural deficit
- Down about 50 pledge units this year from the 5 years prior to the pandemic. 248 this year, about 300 previous years.

Overall - In good financial position, he expects it to be better in the future.

Asked if there were any questions; none raised.

Dwight Golann asked for the budget to be accepted. Barbara Bates moved, motion was seconded and passed by overwhelming affirmative vote.

5. Other business:

Bylaws Amendments: Gordon Moriarity

During the 2020 Annual Meeting, Jacki Rohan moved that the By-Laws be amended at the next Annual Meeting to eliminate a reference to "Delegates to meetings of the Massachusetts Bay District of the Unitarian Universalist Association" as the Mass Bay District no longer exists. Per the UUA website, "In April 2016, the congregations of the Mass Bay District voted to dissolve the corporation of the district."

In addition, the UUSC no longer has congregational delegates.

Accordingly, the members of the Society will be asked to vote on the following By-Laws amendments during the Annual Meeting to be held Sunday, June 6.

Article IV, SECTION 4. At the Annual Meeting of the Society there shall be elected by ballot from the membership of the Society: a Moderator, a Clerk, one or two Assistant Clerks, a Treasurer, one or two Assistant Treasurers, and one high school age member of the Board of Trustees, ~~Delegates to meetings of the Massachusetts Bay District of the Unitarian Universalist Association, Delegates to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and Delegates to other denominational meetings~~ to serve for one year, and two members of the Board of Trustees, one or two members of the Operations Council, and one member of the Board of Investment to serve for three years. Candidates for these offices shall be selected from the recommendations of the Nominating Committee or by nomination from the floor. Unless otherwise provided, all officers shall hold office until the next Annual Meeting and until their successors are duly elected and qualified. Any vacancy occurring by death, resignation or otherwise may be filled at any legal meeting of the Society, or by the Board of Trustees for the interim until the next meeting of the Society.

Motion was made and seconded at last year's Annual Meeting. The motion passed by an overwhelming affirmative vote.

Barbara Bates – wants to thank the 2 departing youth trustees (Sienna Lerner-Gill and Bruce Burba) who prepared a primer for the new incoming youth trustees .

Elaine Becker – asked about the criteria for returning to the building. Susan Bartlett – discussion will begin at the Operations Council June meeting. Will rely on medical opinions and state regulations.

Barbara Schmitt – thanks to Barbara Bates and Pat Rohan for giving a presentation to the Board of Trustees about its history.

Naomi Olson – thanks to those responsible for maintaining the online community. Requests that an ongoing online presence be considered for the future; Susan Bartlett noted that it is on the Operations Council agenda; there are copyright issues with online broadcasts.

Eileen Kurkoski – thanks to those involved with the anti-racism program.

Neil MacGaffey – wanted to bring up a staffing question. Susan Bartlett – confirmed that FUUSN is looking for ½ time RE assistant and ½ time membership coordinator.

Jackie Rohan – thanks to Jacqui James and Meg Holland for bringing the anti-racism program to FUUSN.

Barbara Bates asked Susan for clarification of copyright concerns; Susan could not clarify but said that the question will be addressed. Barbara emphasized the importance of having an online presence.

Urban Larson – he prefers Zoom coffee hour to in-person coffee hour, and hopes we can take lessons from that when we meet in person.

Barbara Bates moved to adjourn, Eileen Kurkoski seconded, overwhelming affirmative vote.

Meeting adjourned 12:27 p.m.