

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES – May 19th, 2019

Chalice Lighting – Rev. Elaine Strawn

Commissioned Lay Minister Ceremony – Rev. Elaine Strawn, Gail Woosley, Steve Cook, Janice Baxstrom and Jo Harper presented.

Ivie Sorkin and Dia Miller were commissioned as Lay Ministers.

Call meeting to order - John Waldman, President, Board of Directors

Good morning! Thank you for attending the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Wayne County.

Anne Wilson reported that there were 105 members in attendance, which exceeded the quorum requirement.

Approval of last year's minutes - John Waldman

The first order of business is to approve the minutes from the 2018 Annual meeting. Are there any revisions or questions? There were no revisions or questions. Approving last year's minutes requires only a consent vote. Please signify your acceptance of the 2018 Annual meeting minutes by raising your voting card. There were no objections. Last year's minutes were approved.

Choose 'readers' for this year's minutes - John Waldman

We are looking for three volunteers to read and review the minutes for this year's annual meeting. We ask that a report of your review be communicated to Bonnie Groop, Board secretary, by July 1, 2019. Gail Woosley, Dia Miller and Tony Beery volunteered. Thank you.

Interim Minister Update - John Waldman

As many of you know from reading the Mail Chimp posting this past Friday, the Board has entered into an employment agreement with an interim minister. I am excited to announce that the Reverend Jennie Barrington will become our interim minister starting August 1. Reverend Jennie has 19+ years of ministry experience and has been an interim minister for the last 12 years serving in 6 different congregations. A more complete bio will be available next week and will also be included in the June newsletter. Rev. Elaine expressed her appreciation for shared ministry.

Building Expansion Project Update - Peter Schantz

Peter Schantz will now provide an update on the Building Expansion project. Peter shared that the building expansion project is moving forward and that the Board has approved hiring the architectural firm, the Rothchild Doyno Collective. Thank you, Peter.

Proposed Bylaw changes - John Waldman

We have two proposed Bylaw changes to bring before the membership.

The first proposed change is to ARTICLE VII. BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS:

The language currently reads: No one shall be elected to serve consecutive three year terms on the Board of Directors.

The proposed revision reads: A Director may be elected to serve 2 consecutive three year terms.

After careful consideration, the Board is proposing this change for several reasons. First, occasions may arise where the leadership and expertise of a current director is required to complete a project. In addition, continuity may be needed in situations where the Leadership Development Team, despite its best efforts, has been unable to recruit a sufficient number of new members or where current members lack the experience or are unable to assume the role of president. *If* this bylaw change is approved, the Fellowship will *still* need to elect an individual to serve a second, consecutive three-year term, which means that members will continue to exercise their prerogative—as well they should—on who serves on the Board.

Is there a motion to accept the revised language to Article VII? Dan Stavnezer moved to accept the revision. Helen Meyers seconded the motion. Any discussion? There was no discussion. Seeing none, all in favor of revising Article VII to read “two consecutive 3 year terms”, by raising your voting card. All opposed, same sign. The motion passed with few objections.

The second proposed change is to ARTICLE IX. STANDING COMMITTEES

The language currently reads: No one shall be chair of a standing committee for more than three consecutive years.

The proposed revision reads: No one shall be chair of a standing committee for more than four consecutive years.

The Board is proposing this extension of the committee chair term to four years to provide the Fellowship with continuity and stability of mission, especially during times of transition. *If* this bylaw change is approved, it will provide committees with greater flexibility, when needed, yet ensure that committees are reinvigorated regularly with new chair appointments.

Is there a motion to accept the revised language to Article IX? Dave Drumm moved that we accept the revision. Gail Woosley seconded the motion. Any discussion? There was no discussion.

Seeing none, all in favor of revising the language of Article IX changing three consecutive years to four consecutive years, by raising your voting card. All opposed, same sign. The motion passed with few objections.

Election of officers - Marti Livingstone presented, John Waldman asked for the vote

Each year, the membership is asked to elect Board of Director members and Leadership Development Team members. Marti Livingstone will present the slate of nominees for each group.

Board:

For three year terms: Cathy Csanyi, Leslie Mayfield, and David Francis.

Is there a motion to accept the slate of names to serve as Directors? Peter Schantz moved that we accept the slate of candidates for the board. Dia Miller seconded the motion. Any discussion? There was no discussion.

Seeing none, all in favor of electing the candidates for Director signify by raising your voting card. All opposed, same sign. The motion to accept the candidates was approved with no objections. Congratulations!

Leadership Development Team:

For three year terms: Deb Barnes, Kristin Keating, and Martin Lubell. For 1 year terms: Sue Kandel and Justine Sherwood.

Is there a motion? Dia Miller moved that we accept the slate of candidates for LDT. Scot Armstrong seconded the motion. Any discussion? There was no discussion.

Seeing none, all in favor of electing the candidates for Leadership Development Team signify by raising your voting card. All opposed, same sign. The motion to accept the candidates was approved with no objections. Congratulations! Thank you, Marti.

Expressions of Appreciation - John Waldman

There are many reasons why the UUFWC functions well – Elaine’s leadership, the tireless work of the staff. Additionally, the successful functioning of our organization is the direct result of all the work performed by 15 committees. Oftentimes, committee work happens behind the scenes; however, the results of the work are what we experience here today and every day. We owe these committees our gratitude and thanks for the work they do.

Will all the committee chairs please stand. Will all committee members please stand. Because of the work of these individuals, the UUFWC continues to be the vibrant community we know and love. Please join me with a round of applause in recognition and appreciation of their work!

I would also like to recognize Drew Frantz, who has been serving as intern minister for more than two years. Drew is away today, attending his graduation from the Meadville Lombard Theological School, where he is receiving his Master of Divinity degree. We appreciate Drew’s insights, his caring manner, and his service to the UUFWC. I hope that he has gained as much from us as we have gained from him. Drew’s last day as our intern is June 30th.

Presentation and Approval of Budget - Nate Chandler

Now Nate Chandler, chair of the Finance Committee will present the proposed budget for 2019-2020. Nate discussed that although we did not meet the \$280,000 request, the Finance Committee was able to reconcile the budget by considering the income from upcoming fund raising events, along with the \$243,842 in pledges. The projection is that we will be approximately \$1772.47 short. (\$260,282 total revenue - \$262,054 expenses). Thank you, Nate.

Is there a motion to accept the 2019-2020 budget? Gail Woosley moved that we approve the budget. David Paul seconded the motion. Any discussion? Congregants reviewed printed copies of the budget. Fred Michel noted that there appeared to be an error in the accounting code 51260 – Housing allowance, also listed as 51260 - Membership Coordinator. Anne Wilson will correct the accounting error. Per Anne, the coding error does not affect the budget numbers/totals.

All in favor of approving the 2019-2020 budget, please signify by raising your voting card. All opposed, same sign. The 2019-2020 budget is approved.

Minister Emerita Designation - Kelly Chandler

Now Board member Kelly Chandler will present a resolution to the membership. Kelly?

UUA policy states that “The title Minister Emerita is granted to honor long and meritorious service to a congregation where the minister has given devoted and competent ministerial leadership. Only that congregation can bestow this title, and it requires a vote of the congregation to confer Minister Emerita status upon the minister.”

There is no one more deserving of this title than Elaine. The spark to honor Elaine with this designation came from a congregant and, with their unanimous support, the Board of Directors today brings the following resolution to the congregation for a vote:

Whereas, the Reverend Doctor V. Elaine Strawn has been the minister of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Wayne County, serving with humility, love, dedication, and distinction, since 1996;

Whereas, Rev. Strawn has exhibited wise and collaborative leadership that has enabled our fellowship to thrive in the past and prepared us to do so in the future;

Whereas, Rev. Strawn has announced her intent to retire, effective July 31, 2019, after 23 years of service to the congregation and wider community;

The Board of Directors and the Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Wayne County hereby acknowledge their gratitude for Rev. Strawn's exemplary service by bestowing upon her the title Minister Emerita, with all the rights, responsibilities, and privileges associated with the title, on this day, May 19, 2019.

Is there a motion to place the resolution to grant the title Minister Emerita to the Rev. Dr. Elaine Strawn before the membership for a vote? Dan Stavnezer moved that we accept the resolution. Janice Baxstrom seconded the motion.

Is there any discussion? There was no discussion. Hearing none, all in favor of accepting the resolution please raise your voting card. All opposed, using the same sign. The resolution was unanimously approved.

Elaine, will you please come to the dais?

It is traditional for the congregation to show its appreciation to the Minister Emerita with a gift. On behalf of the congregation, the Board of Directors wishing to further show and express the community's appreciation for Elaine's service, decrees, commencing on August 1, 2019, that this meeting space of the UUFWC will be named ***Strawn Hall***, further memorializing Elaine's service to all that gather here.

Adjournment

This concludes the annual meeting for 2019. Thank you for attending. Thank you for your continuing support of the UUFWC. Don't forget the youth lunch fundraiser in the library. Enjoy the rest of your day!

Minutes taken and reported by Bonnie Groop, Board Secretary