

Draft Minutes of June 10, 2018 Annual Meeting.  
Please send any comments to secretary@ uuwestport.org.  
The minutes will be approved at the June 2019 Annual Meeting.

**DRAFT**  
**MINUTES OF THE 67<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING**  
**OF THE UNITARIAN CHURCH IN WESTPORT**  
**JUNE 10. 2018**

**Call to Order:** Lynda Bluestein, President of the Board of Trustees (Board), called the meeting to order at 11:30am

**Quorum Report:** Mary-Jane Cross, Secretary of the Board, confirmed there were sufficient members present to satisfy the quorum.

**Centering:** Senior Minister Rev. John Morehouse lit the chalice and offered words in memory of D Davidoff, reminding us that even when things are not going our way, they are going our way.

**Approval of Minutes of Prior Annual Meeting:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of June 11, 2017. Minutes were approved as written.

**The Very Fine Lifetime Volunteer Service Award:** Ken Vogel, Vice-President of the Board, presented the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Fine Award to Charles Colletti. He described Chuck's active service in many areas of the Congregation. Among these he has been the long time chair (and sometimes only member) of the Buildings & Grounds Committee, twice chair of the Board, Stewardship Committee member and Visiting Steward since its inception.

**Board of Trustees Report:** Lynda Bluestein reviewed the activities of the Board during this past year noting significant progress toward the goal of implementing policy based governance. The Board focused its work on policy development and on establishing clear boundaries through the delegation programmatic decisions including implementation only through the Senior Minister (CEO).

Having had the same Board in place for two years contributed significantly to a seamless transition from a management Board to this new governance framework. She also noted it is never recommended to train and lead one's own Congregation in a governance transition like what this Board has completed in two years. She found it personally impossible to not be deeply invested in the outcomes.

Lynda finished by saying she is not staying on the Board for a second term and gladly passes the torch to the incoming Board to complete the transition to policy based governance by continuing to modify policies, establish meaningful linkages with moral owners, and monitor progress on achieving our Ends. She received a standing ovation from the members.

**Financial Reports:**

Year Round Stewardship Committee co-Chair Mary Money reported the positives from this year's pledge drive – the message of Better Together as UU's, the active and enthusiastic involvement of the committee and the Visiting Stewards, and the welcome

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reception given by the Congregation to the Steward visits. She reminded all that although the formal drive has ended, the pledging has not. She ended by encouraging increased participation toward funding this coming year's operating budget, and thanking her committee and the Visiting Stewards.

Endowment Committee Chair Brian Lasher reported the Endowment funds balance is \$2.6M, an increase from 2016-17. Details are in the Annual Report. This total is 90% of the \$3M value prior to the Sheila Lane loan forgiveness. Also, there has been an increase in new donations this past year. He finished by noting the committee continues to make yearly disbursements to the Operating Fund, not just responding to specific needs. Brian thanked his committee for their hard work and wise counsel.

Finance Committee – Treasurer Catherine Onyemelukwe thanked D Adams for her past management of Congregation finances and thanked S O'Meara and the Finance Committee for competently picking up the work. She reported our 2017-18 financial position is sound. Details are in the Annual Report.

**Ratification of the 2018-19 Budget:** Catherine Onyemelukwe reviewed the proposed 2018-19 budget. Details are in the Annual Report. There were no questions.

**A motion was made and seconded to ratify the 2018-19 budget. The budget ratification was passed.**

**Capital Campaign:** Lynda Bluestein introduced a discussion of a possible Capital Campaign in 2019, saying our last Capital Campaign was 20 years ago. Most Congregations have a Capital Campaign every 5 years.

Presenting the case for a new Capital Campaign, Rev. John Morehouse focused on our historic gem of a building, which is slowly deteriorating. He also noted our stable financial position – we have been drawing down less and less from our reserves, and have begun increasing inputs to these reserves. He presented the following overview of the proposed campaign.

- September 2018 – Congregation wide weekend workshop to develop a vision and strategic plan
- Oct 2018–Feb 2019 – Capital Campaign feasibility study, submitted for Board approval and a Congregation vote in February 2019
- Mar-Apr 2019 – Combined Budget Drive & Capital Campaign
- May 2019 – Results from combined campaign & plan revision report to Congregation
- June 2019 – Final Congregation vote to initiate vision & strategic plan.

**Nominating Committee (NC) Report and Elections:** NC co-chair Kathy Roberts thanked the members of the committee and presented the following slate of candidates for election to office.

- Board of Trustees (BOT) [3 year terms]  
Bob Trefry (2<sup>nd</sup>)

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Doug Flam (1<sup>st</sup>)  
Steve Grathwohl (1<sup>st</sup>)

- Endowment Committee (EC) [5 year term]  
Mark Corcoran
- Committee on Ministries (COM) [5 year term]  
Jenna Jacobs (5 years)  
Sudha Sankar (2 years)
- Nominating Committee (NC) [2 year term]  
Sal Mollica (2 years)  
Michelle Garvey (2 Years)  
Sara Bodi (1 year)

**A motion was made and seconded to approve the slate of nominees. The slate was approved as presented.**

**Installation of New Board & Elected Committee Members:** Lynda Bluestein welcomed the newly elected Board members, charging them to serve the Congregation to the best of their abilities, and charging their fellow Board members and the Congregation to support them in the work they are taking on.

Ken Vogel welcomed the newly elected members of Elected Committees, charging them to serve the Congregation to the best of their abilities, and charging their fellow committee members and the Congregation to support them in the work they are taking on.

Lynda then thanked exiting leaders for their service – John Turmelle (BOT), Chris Seiple (BOT), Lynda Bluestein (BOT), Linda Hudson (NC), Kathy Roberts (NC), Kevin Connolly (EC), Tom Hearne (COM), Marti Bishop (COM).

**#MeToo Resolution:** Task Force chair Sudha Sankar reviewed the evolution during this past year of understanding and discussion of the #MeToo movement in the TUCW Congregation. The task force worked with male and female Congregants, through group meetings and electronic responses. The final resolution calls on our Congregation, Board and Senior Minister to endorse prophetic preaching and public advocacy on #MeToo issues.

**It was moved and seconded to adopt the #MeToo resolution. The resolution was adopted as written and is attached to these minutes.**

**Committee on Ministries (COM) Report:** COM chair Tom Hearne reflected on the COM's role this past year as a mirror to the Congregation. The major issues raised by Congregants (long hours put in by staff, support needed for increasing volunteer community action, need for adequate space) are being addressed with the plans for an Assistant Minister and a Capital Campaign.

He also noted the committee has been engaged in addressing conflicts among Congregants. They will continue this work and will be engaged in the full visioning process during this coming year. He thanked his committee for their hard work and support.

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**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary-Jane Cross,  
Secretary of the Board of Trustees

draft

# A Faithful Response to #MeToo

2018 Resolution The Unitarian Church in Westport Annual Meeting

## **PREAMBLE:**

In recent months, we have seen, felt and heard the power of women claiming their voices and speaking their truth as part of the #MeToo Movement. The courageous acts of women from all backgrounds telling their stories and breaking the silence that protects abusive behavior led Time magazine to name as its person of the year in 2017 the voices that launched the #MeToo Movement. Echoes of the #MeToo Movement also reverberated within the walls of The Unitarian Church in Westport. Women who had suffered (or endured) sexual harassment and abuse were sitting in our pews, our meeting spaces, and in our church offices. Gender, age, race, ethnicity, education, socio-economic and marital status or cultural privilege have not protected us. Our religious heritages – Unitarian, Universalist and Unitarian Universalist - compelled us to address the important, widespread, and complex social issues of sexual abuse and interpersonal violence that profoundly affect all people by diminishing human dignity and free choice.

**WHEREAS** the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) takes positions on relevant issues of social justice as an expression of our faith and values and since 1961 has passed 89 resolutions and statements of conscience on sexual justice issues that have largely been in response to public events. These statements present a remarkable commitment to sexual justice; and

**WHEREAS** sexual harassment, abuse and violence against women is not new. What is new is the #MeToo Movement and this moment of women claiming their voices and their agency from those who have hurt them; and

**WHEREAS** the courage of women in our congregation who have come forward in the #MeToo worship services and in TUCWomen's gatherings forcefully remind us of the untold harm that can be caused by sexual misconduct;

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED:** That the Unitarian Church in Westport, CT endorses prophetic preaching and public advocacy on #MeToo issues. This includes support for programs of healing and pastoral support for women and girls who have been injured and seek safe and caring circles; and educational programs for all ages and all gender identities that directly address the issues of sexual harassment, abuse and violence in the home, workplaces, the congregation and in the larger community; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Congregation calls on the Board of Trustees of TUCW and its Senior Minister to institute a comprehensive review of all policies and practices using the lens of #MeToo issues and make all such policies available and accessible in both printed and electronic (website) form. The Congregation further directs the Board

and Senior Minister to share this Resolution with other UU congregations, the UUA and those in other denominations, and to diligently examine any systems of power and patriarchy within this congregation in governance, ministry and administration; and

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED:** That the Congregation requests the President of the Board and the Senior Minister to report annually on progress in implementing this Resolution until the Annual Meeting in 2023.