

**MINUTES OF THE 68TH ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE UNITARIAN CHURCH IN WESTPORT
JUNE 9, 2019**

Call to Order: Ken Vogel, President of the Board of Trustees (Board), called the meeting to order at 11:35am

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 a centering reading.

Approval of Minutes of Prior Annual Meeting: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the 67th Annual Meeting of June 18, 2018 and the Member Meeting of May 5, 2019 to approve a Capital Campaign. Both sets of minutes were approved as written.

The Very Fine Lifetime Volunteer Service Award: Ken Vogel announced the 17th annual Very Fine Lifetime Volunteer Service Award winner is Kathy Roberts. He described Kathy's active service in many areas of the Congregation. Among these he has been the Board of Trustees, Stewardship Committee member and Visiting Steward, Ministerial Search Committee. The award will be presented to Kathy at a later time, as she was not present. She received a standing ovation.

Board of Trustees Report: Ken Vogel reviewed the activities of the Board during this past year noting the Board has been monitoring progress towards the priority Congregation Ends set in 2017. The Board has also focused on supporting the work to bring a Capital Campaign to fruition in 2019. The full report is in the 2019 Annual Report.

Endowment & Capital Campaign:

Endowment Committee Chair Kevin Leddy reported the Endowment funds balance stands at \$2.8 Million, an increase from 2016-17. The committee also manages the restricted Music fund of \$200,000. He reviewed the income and disbursements from the Endowment, noting they continue to contribute to the Annual Operating Budget. Details are in the Annual Report.

Kevin then reported that the Endowment Committee and Endowment donors have agreed to support a matching fund type of contribution, up to \$500,000 to the Capital Campaign. As required in the Constitution, the Board made an official request to the Endowment for this contribution. The upper limit of the Contribution is higher than the Board alone is allowed to authorize and is brought to the Congregation at this time.

A motion was made and seconded to request a matching fund contribution, up to \$500,000, from the Endowment to the Capital Campaign.

During discussion, Kevin noted that the match will be against monies committed during the Fall full Congregation appeal. Details of how the matching contributions will work will be presented to the Congregation by the start of the Fall appeal.

The motion was called for a vote. Passed Unanimously.

Board member Steve Grathwohl introduced a motion **to pay the architect firm Goody Clancy up to \$200,000, between June –December 2019, for the design phase of TUCW building renovations. Funds will come from initial Capital Campaign payments. Motion was seconded.**

Steve noted this idea has been raised by Congregants during the spring Capital Campaign meetings. A question was raised if this is a full or partial payment. It is the 2nd payment for design work. The architect firm will stay involved with further design as well as management of project implementation. Rev John Morehouse announced that lead donors have committed \$680,000 to date, and we have received over \$200,000 in payments, covering the cost of this motion.

The motion was called for a vote. Passed Unanimously

Financial Reports & Votes:

Endowment Committee as reported above.

Year Round Stewardship Committee co-Chair Mary Money reported pledge results – 219 pledges received for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. She emphasized that there are so many more who are active in the Congregation. She urged each member at the meeting to bring some ideas on how to involve more of these people in pledging support, and to become actively involved in Stewardship.

Finance Committee – Treasurer Catherine Onyemelukwe reviewed the financial results to date and the proposed budget for 2019-2020. A question was asked why B&G Projects are reduced \$5,000 from the 2018-19 expected expenses. Catherine explained there were two large expenses this year - meeting house A/C, boiler replacement.

Ratification of the 2019-20 Budget:

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

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

- Board of Trustees (BOT) [3 year terms – to 2022]
Catherine Onyemelukwe (2nd)
Stapley Emberling (1st)
Alex Gormley (1st)
- Endowment Committee (EC) [5 year term – to 2024]
David Bauer
- Committee on Ministries (COM) [5 year term – to 2024]
Joanne Orenstein

- Nominating Committee (NC) [2 year term – to 2021]
Felicia Keeton
Diana Bell
Tom Hearne

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: Ken Vogel welcomed the newly elected Board and Elected Committee members, 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.

Ken then thanked exiting leaders for their service – Doug Flam (BOT), Monica Garrison & Chuck Colletti (NC), Brian Lasher (EC), Anita Pfluger (COM).

#MeToo Resolution Report: Ken Vogel reported on progress to date on the directives in the 2018 Congregation Resolution. Progress that has been made over the past year has been both meaningful in the lives of individual women in the congregation and powerful in its focus on inspiring leaders to rethink the words they use and the ways TUCW can be more inclusive. Much remains to be done regarding language and policies that keep women safe. A larger effort at educating our congregation as to the pervasiveness of patriarchy needs to be undertaken in the years ahead.

The 2019 Annual Report includes a detailed report from the #MeToo Council, Ken urged the Congregation to read through the it, both to understand the work being done, but also to educate ourselves on the context and challenges of this very important topic.

Committee on Ministries (COM) Report: Sudha Sankar & Randy Burnham reflected on the COM's role this past year as a mirror to the Congregation. They noted that their focus was on the work of the Ministerial side and highlighted accomplishments of the Ministerial Committees. Their full report is in the Annual Report.

New Business: Charles Klein raised a point of order re the nomination process; nothing was sent to be posted on the website in April, although the slate was posted in the TUCW foyer. He called on the Ministry, Board, Elected Committees, and staff to put communications on a front burner this coming year.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:30pm.

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