

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

March 28, 2021

Call to order at 11:45 am by Tim McCusker, Vice President. Tim explained the voice-call voting method that will be used for this electronic meeting, with a call for the nay votes first and the ayes second. If there is any ambiguity, a role call vote will be called. For that reason, Tim requested that all those participating in this electronic meeting do so with their video turned on.

Quorum Established: Verified by Jan Droegkamp, Chair of Membership Committee

Chalice Lighting: Rev. Janet Onnie

Covenant of Right Relationships: Nancy Garrison

Adoption of the Agenda: Jan Droegkamp moved, and Helene Kirschbaum seconded, that the Agenda be adopted as published. The motion carried.

Approval of the June 28, 2020 Congregational Meeting Minutes: Jerry Slosser moved, and Helene Kirschbaum seconded, that the Minutes be approved as published. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Remarks and Approval of Fiscal Year 21/22 Budget: Jake Bishop summarized our fiscal year ending 3/31/21 by noting that we experienced a \$10,000 unbudgeted expense. This was for equipment and assistance needed to enable the IT Team to offer virtual Sunday Services, as well as other Tri-UU business that needed to be conducted from afar. In addition, there was a projected \$8,000 shortfall in the 2021 budget. We applied for and received a \$19,000 PPP loan/grant from the Federal Government, bringing revenues and expenses in balance for the fiscal year. The Finance Team has proposed, and the Board of Trustees has agreed, to a balanced budget for fiscal year 2022. This budget has been posted on the Website for the Congregation to review. After a short discussion and question period, Andrea Coburn moved that the 21/22 Budget be approved as presented. John Seitz seconded the motion and it was approved.

President's Remarks: Due to President Marjorie Rhem's illness,

Tim McCusker read her prepared remarks to the congregation. She feels honored to be serving as President of Tri-UU. She has watched our congregation meet the challenges of the current Pandemic with resources and talents and with a spirit of cheerfulness, adventure, cooperation and ownership. We visioned and created new ways of doing things that have kept us together during these difficult times and allowed us to further the spirit of Tri-UU. She encouraged us to “stay the course” and keep exploring Tri-UU’s future together.

Minister’s Remarks: When we closed our doors in March, 2020, we began a ministry of technology. Under Intern Joe Donatone’s guidance, we jumped into the intricacies of this new world. And we have thrived. We have found a new way of being in religious community. Chat rooms have fostered new and deeper relationships. Spirituality needs are being met in Sunday Services and Mid-Week Musings, which are beamed to anyone who cares to join regardless of geographic locations. We have continued to welcome new members, even as we have had to say goodbye to others. Throughout, we have cared for each other with an undergirding of pastoral care. Our ability to accept technology challenges and remain in community has been impressive. Tri-UU remains committed to relationships – with all of life, with others and self, within and without. Rev. Janet said that she is honored to have been a witness to this process.

Interim Minister Search: The Committee has been meeting weekly. They are working to complete a UUA questionnaire that will be used to identify and attract prospective interim ministers for interview. The UUA deadline for this questionnaire is 4/24, but the Committee is hoping to have it completed by 4/8. If any congregant has input they would like to provide, or would like to communicate with the Search Committee, please email that to Tim McCusker. It was suggested that the congregation be sent bio’s of any interim prospects the Committee interviews.

Approval of 21/22 Slate of Board Members:

President:	Marjorie Rhem	2 year term
Vice President:	Nancy Garrison	2 year term
Trustee	Peggy Roberts	1 year term (completing Nancy’s term)
Trustee	Helene Kirschbaum	2 year term
Trustee	Suzanne Seitz	2 year term

Jan Droegkamp moved that the Slate of Board Members be accepted as presented. Myra Symons seconded the motion and it was approved.

Approval of Nominating Team for 2021-22:

BJ Rolli
Kevin Brown
Carole Jackson

Since this slate was presented by a Committee it is equivalent to a motion and a second. If there are no other candidates nominated from the floor, the question can be called. After a voice vote, the slate was approved.

Tribute to Rev. Onnie: On behalf of the congregation, Andrea Coburn and Wendy Griffith recognized many of Rev. Onnie's contributions to Tri-UU over the years. She is responsible for establishing Tri-UU's identity as a religious organization. Prior to Janet's tenure, many thought of Tri-UU as a social or philosophy club. She strengthened the UUA connection to Tri-UU, and she established our reputation as a teaching organization as evidenced by the 3 interns who chose to come to Tri-UU. Rev. Onnie's care for congregants is exemplary as shown in her presence and the establishment of the lay pastoral associates team. Through Rev. Onnie's leadership, Lifespan Education was established and courses offered through the Enrichment Academy in The Villages. She is actively involved in social justice leadership and reform. She contributes to leadership development, outreach and networking. Rev. Onnie was instrumental in developing our current organizational model, visioning and strategic planning. She helped our congregation craft a Covenant of Right Relations. Rev. Onnie supports team meetings and social events with her attendance and counsel. Sunday services are consistently inspired creative, comforting and challenging. She helped to train service leaders and worship associates. She has strengths in volunteer coordination and communication. When the Pandemic forced the church closing, Rev. Onnie helped to establish virtual services, chat rooms, Mid-Week Musings and Thursday chats on race. She helped to develop the loving and positive norms we now enjoy and value. For all of these reasons and many more, Wendy Griffith moved that we confer the title of Pastor Emerita to Rev. Janet Onnie upon her retirement August 31. The motion was seconded by Andrea Coburn and passed unanimously.

President's Closing Remarks: Tim thanked everyone for their attention and cooperation through this virtual meeting. He extended his appreciation for the privilege of serving as vice-president the past two years. Marjorie said that she would like to say a few words and offer her thanks before the meeting was adjourned. She deeply appreciates everyone and all the things we have accomplished together. She said she looks forward to continuing together in service for Tri-UU.

Chalice Extinguished: Rev. Janet Onnie

Adjourned at 1:05 p.m.: Helene Kirschbaum moved that the meeting be adjourned. With no objections from the congregation, it was approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Jackson