

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Dubuque - 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes
Sunday, November 29, 2020 - 10:00-11:30am
Meeting held via Zoom

Attendance: Marian Maciej-Hiner, Katie Heil, Teresa Glover, JoEllen Langerman, Wendy Woodhouse, Pam Kress-Dunn, Bob Dunn, Diane Baker, Linda Ressler, Julia Ormazu, Frank Potter, Mary Nevans-Peterson, Kathleen Weber, Gail Guenther, Jerry Guenther, Cyndi Hartley, Laura Hoffman, Marilyn Tomaro, Calvin Gatch (friend), Barb Gatch (friend), Alyssa Zasada, Tam Prenosil, Maureen Leytem, John Butler (friend), Alice Butler (friend), Jean Becker, Tom Griep, Nancy Turner, Sandy Nickel, Samuel Felderman, Cass Tomkins, Sheri Garner, Jeanne Harrington, Ann Ernst, Amy Ressler

Call to Order: Marian Maciej-Hiner at 10:02 am

Chalice Lighting: Gail Guenther

Check-in

- Connect on a personal level before moving to congregational business

2019 Annual Meeting Minutes:

- Katie Heil presented the minutes - Approved

President's Report - 2020 Focus Update

- Marian Maciej-Hiner provided an overview of an extraordinary year unlike anything any of us experienced - grateful to have shared it with everyone, especially the Board
- We faced significant challenges together - COVID-19, racial justice issues, saying "farewell" to our minister of 20 years, Kent Mayfield
- We embraced opportunities together - put up billboard / banner to make values visible, explore major restoration of church home, embark on journey to define spiritual identity

Treasurer's Report

- Jerry Guenther reported on 2020 - budgeted a little over \$28,000 for operating budget and spent a little less than that, along with \$7,000 in capital expenses for total \$35,000
 - Proposing to reduce 2021 operating budget
 - Our national dues are based on our operating budget, so don't want to over budget
 - Spend less without in-person services
 - Want to pay off our mortgage (capital expenses - not part of operating budget) by the end of August
 - Need an additional \$7,500 beyond our regular monthly mortgage payments to cover the mortgage (subtracting money already set aside in the building fund)
 - Need \$3,000 more than we brought in this year
- Proposed 2021 budget: \$25,600 operating budget + \$12,400 for mortgage = \$38,000
 - Hope those making pledges will increase a bit (5% more)
 - Jerry will be asking for pledges for 2021 operating budget + capital expenses

- Questions & Answers:
 - **Question:** would it help to put all the money in the building fund to the mortgage right away at the beginning of the year?

Yes, Jerry would like to do at least half of that first thing in the year – didn't do it last year because of all the uncertainty of Covid
 - **Question:** are contributions towards DACU etc included?

Yes, Jerry has more detailed budget not included on the slide (DACU is part of social action committee's budget)
 - **Question:** would some of the money budgeted for the mortgage not be available until after August?

No, there are things that are budgeted for that don't come due until after August, which gives us flexibility. We also have extra money in our checking account for emergencies which would be replenished by not having to pay the mortgage the months between August and December.
 - **Question:** What is the formula for UUA? Is MidAmerica separate?

MidAmerica is not separate. UUA is between 6 and 7% of our annual budget. Our dues are going down dramatically. However, they don't want to decrease (or increase) more than 10% every year until we get in-line with the new formula.
- 2021 budget was unanimously approved

ByLaws Changes:

- Remove: "Any person who was previously a member of any other Unitarian Universalist congregation may become a member of this Fellowship upon resigning his or her previous membership and making application to an officer."
- Remove: (as amended in 1987)
- Update a reference to the "Prairie Star District" to "MidAmerica Region"
- Change the establishment of a nominating committee from three months in advance, to mid-October
- Change the requirement that 80% of the congregation needs to approve a public statement to giving freedom of the pulpit to the minister and approval by the President +3 board members for all other public statements
- All proposed ByLaws changes were approved with 100% of the vote

Board Elections:

- Thanks to Nominating Committee and to all on the ballot
- Jerry Guenther was re-elected as Treasurer
- Gail Guenther was re-elected to a one-year trustee term
- Diane Baker was newly elected to a two-year trustee term

Recognition of Volunteers

- It takes many people to run this all-volunteer lay-led organization - make it a healthy, thriving congregation
- We are grateful to all who contribute time & talent to serve the Fellowship

Information

- Thanks to Jerry's diligence we have maintained our status as an Honor Congregation in making combined UUA / regional UUA district Annual Program Fund (APF) contribution
- We have dedicated - active - engaged committees - to join, contact Committee Chair

Other Business - Historic Building Preservation Project:

- Wendy Woodhouse shared a testimonial for supporting the restoration project
- Internal \$93,850 raised
- External \$3,863 raised
- Faithify donations had some duplication and Jerry has been sorting this out
- \$99,240 altogether - but with new info this morning, around \$103,000
- Will hear mid-December about the State Historic Tax Credits - Part 1 application
- Frank Potter pointed out that all of the funds are going directly into our project instead of a percentage going to professional fundraisers

Gratitude

- Thanks to Nancy Turner for her contributions to the Board - ongoing service to UUFD
- Big thanks to Jerry Guenther for managing two separate accounts and continuing to serve as treasurer
- Thanks to Gail Guenther for continuing to serve
- Congratulations to Diane Baker for joining the Board

Chalice Extinguishing: Linda Ressler

Adjournment: motioned by Alyssa Zasada at 11:31, seconded by Samuel Felderman

- Unanimous approval