

UNITY CHURCH IN ALBANY
2021 Annual Membership Meeting
Sunday, March 7, 2021
Via Zoom

MINUTES

1. Celebrating Our Connected Community

Unity Church in Albany president Heather Diddel welcomed all to the 2021 Annual Meeting. She thanked all congregants for their support of Unity in Albany over the past year, made particularly more challenging given the worldwide COVID19 pandemic. She expressed appreciation to all for their patience in adjusting to the closure of the church to in-person gatherings and their good will, resourcefulness and tenacity in adapting to online technology for live streamed services and Zoom video conferencing. She thanked all who contributed to Unity love offerings, activities, Ministry groups, those involved with upkeep of the church, the AV and Music Teams, and the Board of Trustees.

2. Nominating Committee and Election

Kathy Lewis, chair of the Nominating Committee, introduced the three candidates running for the Board of Trustees. Candidates Dave Ferrill, Peggy Kaufmann and Carol Morris made brief remarks about their perspectives on Unity. Kathy then announced that the online voting link was activated. Ballots were compiled and the results of the election were: Carol Morris and Peggy Kaufmann elected to three-year terms; Dave Ferrill elected as alternate delegate, to serve a one-year term.

Volunteers were sought to serve as chair of the Nominating Committee for the 2022 Board election; Geri Ann Iacona will serve as chair and Nancy Wells will serve as alternate chair. Heather and Kathy extended deepest gratitude to Cheri Warren for her extraordinary efforts in securing an online election software and supervising its implementation.

3. Treasurer's Report

Karin Reinhold, treasurer, provided a report on Unity in Albany's finances. For 2020, revenues were \$216,326, expenses were \$218,719, which resulted in a deficit of \$2293 for the year. She reviewed expenses for 2020, and detailed special expenditures including the hiring of Reverend Steve Colladay as interim minister; new AV support; additional hours for Nina Corcoran Forgette, office administrator; the special HOPCOF event (Honoring our Past, Creating our Future); and the addition of a new bookkeeping service. She also outlined the groups which received monthly tithes from the church

(Unity Worldwide Ministries and Headquarters, Unity Eastern Division, Silent Unity, Unity Spiritual Institute, Unity Urban Ministries, Albany area FOCUS Churches). She shared information regarding Unity in Albany's reserve fund, which started at \$201,778 in January 2020 and as of January 2021 was \$227,459.

4. Building and Grounds Report

Dave Ferrill and Carol Morris, co-chairs of the Building and Grounds Committee, reported on facility priorities for the coming year. Proposed projects included replacement of the sanctuary air conditioning units; air circulation systems; and consideration of AV equipment placement to support weekly broadcasting of church services.

5. Church Re-Opening Task Force

Pat Wood, chair of the Re-Opening Task Force, reported on the issues that would be addressed by the task force. The group is working in close collaboration with the Buildings and Grounds Committee and is researching governmental guidelines for safe re-opening, as well as how other churches are approaching re-opening issues and plans. She noted that the church, as a beautiful and beloved church for over a century, would need to be modernized to accommodate re-opening requirements. As the Buildings and Grounds Committee was focusing on the church facilities and potential repair and/or replacement of equipment, there would also be consideration of a new floor layout in the sanctuary to accommodate the AV production and lighting requirements, and new, flexible seating arrangements to ensure safe accommodations for all. She further noted that with the need to invest in the church buildings, that upgrades would carry costs, and that the support of the congregation would be essential to carry out these initiatives.

6. Search and Find Team Report

Sharon Stewart, co-chair of the Senior Minister Search and Find Team, reported that the search was well underway. Unity Worldwide Ministry is serving as a clearing house for potential applicants, and staff had advised that, given the pandemic, the search process may take longer than searches in the past. The Team will continue to report to the congregation on further developments.

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.