

**Minutes of the Mid-Year Congregational Meeting
First Unitarian Church of Omaha
January 19, 2020**

Present at meeting:

Joseph Schaaf, President
Sharon Piehler, President-Elect
Harold Cruz-Sanchez
Peg Pidgeon

Absent from meeting:

Donna Tubach-Davis
Catherine Plumlee, Secretary
Bill Tull

Song by the Sanctuary Singers.

Call to Order: The Mid-Year Congregational Meeting of First Unitarian Church of Omaha was called to order at 10:40am by Board President, Joseph Schaaf.

Lighting the Chalice

Update from the Board of Trustees - Joseph Schaaf, President

Mr. Schaaf thanked the lay leaders of the church who have helped guide the church throughout the year. He also thanked the board members each by name and particularly noted the work done by Walt Jesteadt over his many years as Treasurer.

Mr. Schaaf then stated that he wanted to update the Congregation on the work being done to pursue the advancement of our Annual Vision of Ministry. He pointed out that Rev. Michelle is our point person in achieving this vision and that she has done the work remarkably well. Mr. Schaaf then reviewed our Annual Vision of Ministry for the Congregation. He explained to the Congregation that updates from Rev. Michelle regarding this work can be found on our website under the Members section. Other items Mr. Schaaf touched on during his talk were that the board has done much work on the Employee handbook, that we have worked to make our policies and standards meet with the UUA guidelines for fair and equitable pay, and that we are working to be true to the 7 Principles. We are helping our new DRE Christina Strong with support in developing her DRE skills. The board is also currently working on a new Destructive Behavior policy and worked on the ministerial review for Rev. Michelle's first year with the help of last year's board members. The board worked with our Treasurer Walt Jesteadt and Cheri Cody from Second Unitarian to help us incorporate Power Church as our main platform, devised a 5-year plan for finances and have updated several existing policies.

Update from Ministry Team Council - Sharon Piehler, President-Elect

Ms. Piehler opened with explanation of what MTC is and what they do. Members of the team are, including herself, Rev. Michelle and two elected members Sarah Monaghan and Amy Lucas. Ms. Piehler then went on to point out other actions the team had undertaken during the past year:

- 1) Worked on the Annual Vision of Ministry
- 2) Adopted the use of a reporting tool to track progress and determine needs
- 3) Worked to secure systems, update passwords and become more efficient
- 4) Supported the Stewardship campaigns
- 5) Numerous building repairs
- 6) Helped to enact new policies, such as the smoking and vaping policy

Work to do:

- 1) Streaming system old and in need of updating. Need cost quotes and the creation of user manuals for volunteers
- 2) Work of onboarding new settled minister

Ms. Piehler also asked that members of the Congregation step up to help with hospitality teams and support our Partner Church.

Update from Ministerial Search Committee - Kim Dunovan, Chair

Ms. Dunovan began by informing the Congregation that Search committee member Klyde Warren had resigned from the Search Committee and how much the Committee had appreciated the insight provided by Klyde to the search. She then reintroduced the Search Committee and had them stand. Ms. Dunovan explained the many steps it takes in the search for a settled minister. She thanked Rev. Michelle for her guidance and support during this process. Ms. Dunovan stated that members of the Congregation can find a detailed timeline and more information about the search process by going to the search committee webpage on the church's website.

Finance Report - Walt Jesteadt, Treasurer

A detailed financial report provided by Mr. Jesteadt was made available to the Congregation for review before the finance report. Mr. Jesteadt discussed how all of our financial processes are in transition. In May of last year Cheri Cody, treasurer of Second Unitarian was recruited to serve as our interim accountant with the goal of developing more transparent, streamlined financial procedures. He went on to say that we ran a deficit last year and are projecting one for this year. We generally come up short on pledge contributions but the good news is that this has happened in the past and we were able to return to annual surpluses.

Right Relations Committee - Deborah McAtee, Right Relations Member

Ms. McAtee noted that the covenant is now on the front cover of the order of

service. She mentioned the other members on the Right Relations team are Carol Cronin, Della Gushen and Rev. Sarah Voss. She said that the team looks to respect our differences and work for our core values and principles.

Nominating Committee Solicitation for Awards and Leaders - Maria Wallace, Convener

Ms. Wallace introduced the members of the team, Nellie Chenoweth, Kathi Oliver - Chairperson, Mike McAtee and Marie Sedlacek. She pointed out the nomination form included in the handouts to the Congregation and asked that everyone consider who to nominate.

Benediction - Joseph Schaaf, President

Adjournment at 11:23am

Closing song sung by the Sanctuary Singers

Minutes prepared by Peg Pidgeon