

Unitarian Universalist Church in Cherry Hill

Annual Congregational Meeting

June 13, 2021 – Minutes

LOCATION	Zoom virtual meeting space
CHAIRPERSON	Connie Roggio (President)
BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDING	Tom Delaney, Ken Ewan, Pam Anderson, Bob Messick, Diane Baker-Hallowell, Al Migdal
BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT	
MINISTER	Rev. Margret A. O’Neill
STAFF	Paula Gribble, Director of Lifespan Faith Engagement, Mandy Skalski, Church Administrator
SECRETARY	Christine Denario
PARLIAMENTARIAN	Nicole Gillespie
MODERATOR	Larry Solow
VISITORS	Stacy LaBelle, Harry LaBelle, Libby Williams
KEY MOTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A motion was made by Walt Nadolny to accept the minutes of the June 2019 Annual Congregational Meeting, and was seconded by Rohn Hein. Karen Feldman, Mike Feldman, and Holly Willett abstained from the vote. The motion passed.• Rohn Hein moved to have a unanimous ballot cast for the nominees to the Board of Trustees and LDNC, and Les Engels seconded the motion. Connie invited discussion on the motion. Nicole Gillespie affirmed that the vote could proceed in this manner. Mike Feldman called the question. Rohn Hein and Les Engels affirmed the slates of Board of Trustees and LDNC candidates by acclamation, and so the slates of candidates were unanimously approved.• Rohn Hein moved to adopt the proposed 2021-22 budget, and Susan Druckenbrod seconded the motion. Nina Scarpa and Denise Menzel abstained from the vote and Les Engels voted against the budget. With 70 affirmative votes, the 2021-22 budget was approved.• Walt Nadolny moved to adjourn, and Rohn seconded the motion. All votes by acclamation were in favor, and so the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 1:32PM.
ELECTION RESULTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No floor nominees were offered for positions on the

	<p>Board of Trustees (BOT) or the Leadership Development and Nominating Committee (LDNC).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Voting by acclamation confirmed the slate of candidates to fill the vacancies on the Board of Trustees. Pam Anderson and Ken Ewan were elected to a second term, and Jennie Stone and Paul Asman were elected to a first term. ● Voting by acclamation confirmed the slate of candidates to fill the vacancies on the Leadership Development and Nominating Committee (LDNC). Armandine Kelly and Ron Enfield were elected to a second term, and Cathy Marsh, Bill Warner, and Barbara Flewelling were elected to a first term.
OTHER	

Board President, Connie Roggio, called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:32 pm.

1. Call to Order

Connie Roggio called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm. Connie invited Rev. Margret to light the chalice and address the congregation.

2. Chalice Lighting and Opening Words

Rev. Margret A. O’Neill offered some inspiring words and lit the chalice. She invited Paula Horton to share her thoughts on how we come together in community. Paula asked all to consider the words used when offering input at various points in the meeting, to assure that the feelings of others are taken into account. Margaret then lit the chalice.

3. Appointment of Secretary, Parliamentarian, and Moderator

Connie appointed Christine Denario as Secretary, Nicole Gillespie as Parliamentarian, and Larry Solow as Moderator of the Annual Congregational Meeting. She introduced Larry Solow for the purpose of presenting slides on Zoom etiquette.

4. Zoom Etiquette and Right Relations

Larry Solow shared his screen, which described Zoom Etiquette and how the Zoom controls would be used during the discussion and voting processes.

5. Establishment of Quorum

Paul Asman, chair of the Leadership Development and Nominating Committee

(LDNC), announced that the LDNC had tabulated the results of a count, and a quorum was established for the meeting.

6. Approval of Minutes of the June 2020 Annual Meeting

Connie informed those assembled that the minutes of the June 2020 Annual Congregational Meeting were posted to the UUCCH website and were also sent out in preparation for this meeting. She asked for any amendments or changes to be considered. Larry then advised anyone with questions or comments to state their names in the Zoom Chat feature or use the Reactions “Raise Hand” button to indicate that they wished to speak. Larry checked for any input requesting to ask questions, make amendments or changes to the minutes of the June 2020 Annual Meeting, but no indications were received. Walt Nadolny moved to approve the minutes of the June 2020 Annual Congregational Meeting, and Rohn Hein seconded the motion. Larry then shared his screen with voting procedure instructions on it, and explained the procedure for voting. Connie reiterated the instructions and congregants were invited to register their votes. Karen Feldman, Mike Feldman, and Holly Willett abstained from the vote. The LDNC tabulated the votes, and Paul Asman announced that the motion to approve the minutes of the June 2020 Annual Meeting passed.

7. Reports from the Board of Trustees, Developmental Minister, and Renovation Task Force

Connie Roggio spoke on behalf of the BOT, noting that Bob Messick, Al Migdal, and Diane Baker-Hallowell joined the Board last year. Connie thanked Rev. Margret and all Board members for their contributions this year, noting that this marks the end of the second year of Rev. Margret’s Developmental Ministry. Connie recalled the votes taken to move forward with the Renovation project. She expressed gratitude to Christine Denario for her work as the appointed Secretary and to Lee Phillips for his work as the appointed Treasurer. Connie anticipated the new and exciting future that will result from the Renovation project. She spoke about establishing cultures of trust, abundance, and connection in the upcoming third year of the Developmental Ministry. Connie recalled the success of the campaigns to raise the funds for the Renovation and for the Annual Budget. She thanked the congregation for their faith in the Board to move forward in an unprecedented year characterized by adjusting operations to function safely in a pandemic. Connie acknowledged the Board’s ongoing sense of responsibility to the church. She observed that the Board is a continuum, and expressed the hope that the Board would no longer to be characterized as “this year’s Board” or “last year’s board.”

Rev. Margret presented her report on the second year of the Developmental Ministry. She recalled the Building Campaign being carried out amidst the

pandemic. Rev. Margret noted that this active congregation made the effort to continue the work of the congregation electronically, and she praised the congregation for continuing that work. Rev. Margret identified herself as a coach for the community to move forward in creating those cultures of trust, abundance, and connection, which can only be developed by consistent effort on the part of the community. She noted that her job is to help us live into our successful future.

Pam Anderson, chair of the Renovators Committee, presented the highlights of the report from that committee. She thanked Renovation Task Force participants, and recalled their efforts to see the Sanctuary Renovation project through. She summarized the activities of the Renovation Task Force in the past year, and recalled the successful Building Campaign. She thanked Ed Fox for his central role, and introduced him to speak further on the current status of the project.

Ed Fox shared that that the project has been submitted to Cherry Hill Township for permits addressing most of the interior of the building. The general contractor has estimated that the project will take 5-6 months to complete. Ed noted that the pandemic has impacted the Renovation in terms of greater demand than supply of building materials. This has unfortunately caused some delay, as well as some increase in expected costs.

8. Congregational Elections

Paul Asman asked for congregational support of the slate put forward by the LDNC. He reminded the congregation of the qualifications to vote in the meeting. Connie then called for floor nominations. Hearing none, she called for Paul to introduce the slate of candidates for election to fill the Board and LDNC vacancies. Paul listed the candidates both for the Board and LDNC, noting that these candidates were presented in the Call to Meeting packet that accompanied the announcement of this annual meeting.

Larry then explained the voting procedure. Rohn Hein moved to have a unanimous ballot cast for the nominees to the Board of Trustees and LDNC, and Les Engels seconded the motion. Connie invited discussion on the motion. Nicole Gillespie affirmed that the vote could proceed in this manner. Mike Feldman called the question. Rohn Hein and Les Engels affirmed that they are in favor of their motion, and so Nicole Gillespie indicated that a voice vote would affirm the slates. Connie called for nays and abstentions, and none were voiced. The vote was thus presumed to be unanimous.

Mike Feldman asked that it be clarified as to when hands be raised. Connie clarified that Rohn and Les will affirm the slate for all, as there were no nays and no abstentions. Rohn and Les indicated that they affirmed the slate by acclamation, and so the slate of Board of Trustees and LDNC candidates had been confirmed. The motion thus carried unanimously. Connie congratulated the new

members of the Board and LDNC.

9. Report from the Treasurer: FY 2020-2021

Lee Phillips shared his screen to reveal the Annual Meeting Treasurer's Report, and reminded congregants that the May Treasurer's Report does not reflect June. Lee thanked Bobbie Keane and David Gift as check writers. He described the movement of end of year deficits and surpluses to the Church Reserve, and noted that this year a deficit of \$6,000 will be covered by the Church Reserve. Lee thanked Ken Slight for his efforts to get the CARES Act loan of \$36,466.67 forgiven. He noted that there have been two consecutive years of deficits, attributed these deficits to the pandemic. Lee presented balances of the various accounts, and enumerated other property assets. Connie called for any questions. Hearing none, Connie then moved on to the Adoption of the 2021-2022 budget.

10. Adoption of Budget for 2021-22

Connie introduced the chair of the Finance Committee, Nicole Gillespie. Nicole thanked Lee Phillips, Bobbie Keane, David Gift, and Ken Slight for their roles on the Finance Committee. She introduced Ken Slight, who shared his screen to provide details of the 2021-22 budget. Ken emphasized stewardship as very successful this year, with 61 pledge units committing to give \$211,000. He noted that this represents an increase of 18% over last year's pledging. Ken indicated that, while most pledge units are remaining at the same level as last year, there are 5 new pledges totaling \$3,300, and 16 pledge units decreasing by a total of \$11,000. The total amount pledged is \$352,000.

Ken reported that donations have already been received toward next year. He stated that the earnings from the Endowment will decrease next year due to its use to fund the Renovation project until those pledges covering Renovation expenditures are received. Ken indicated that spending increases in the budget are due to a raise of 2% for staff, an increase in Church Administrator hours, an increase in Director of Music Ministry hours, and a new health care benefit recommended by the UUA that reimburses employees for the cost of using their spouse's benefits. He offered to explain these increases in detail by email if anyone desired more specifics. Ken reviewed contractor mowing, snow plowing, and tree removal expenses, which increased the Property Committee budget by \$9,000. Other changes include an increase in UU Faith Action dues, the Voiceover IP phone system and internet, web subscriptions, 1.2% inflation for other expenses, and a decrease in UUA dues. Ken called for any questions from the congregation. Larry encouraged questions to be posted in the Zoom Chat or through the Reactions "Raise Hand" button. No questions were posed. Connie thanked Ken for his report, and for all his work on the finance committee and his use of his talents to the benefit of UUCCH. Paul Asman indicated that the vote

would be taken first by asking for abstentions, then for nays, such that remaining yeas could be presumed.

Connie then called for a motion to adopt the budget. Rohn Hein moved to adopt the proposed 2021-22 budget, and Susan Druckenbrod seconded the motion. Nina Scarpa and Denise Menzel abstained from the vote and Les Engels voted against the budget. With 70 affirmative votes, the 2021-22 budget was approved.

11. Other Business

Connie called for any committee chairs who wished to make a brief presentation to do so. Larry advised that this could be indicated in the Zoom Chat or through the “Raise Hand” function. Seeing no requests to speak on behalf of committees, Connie then called for any new business appropriate to the congregational meeting. Karen Feldman asked why there are no UU of the Year awards. Connie indicated that this was postponed for another year, and invited Mary Cregan to speak to this. Mary stated that two honorees were selected last year, but it was hoped that the honor could be awarded in person, and so this has been postponed until such time as the awards can be conveyed in person. There were no indications from anyone of any additional business to be discussed.

Connie expressed her gratitude to the congregation for entrusting her with four years of leadership of this community. She recalled the joys and frustrations of her tenure, and the Renovation in particular. Connie thanked Ed Fox for his leadership on the Renovation. She recalled the efforts to preserve the evidence of negligence against the truss company, which ultimately prolonged the project and did not bear fruit because the trusses were beyond the statute of limitations. Connie enumerated the many, many revisions to the Renovation project, and recalled the frustrations of dealing with COVID-19 supply chain delays. She recalled that the Renovators Task Force decided early on that the end product would be worth of all the effort.

Connie advised the congregation that the entire building represents a construction site, and so the building is not hosting any activities. She stated that the Fellowship Hall ceiling is now included in the Renovation project. Connie noted that there were many months in which there were no changes evident, and so there was little progress on which to report. She assured the congregation that the outcome of the project will be worth the congregation’s patience in the end.

Rohn expressed his feeling that UUCCH has been very fortunate to have Connie’s cool, calm leadership through these past four years. Rev. Margret mentioned that Connie and Tom Delany are cycling off the board, and expressed thanks to both of them on behalf of the congregation. Connie expressed her gratitude to the congregation for their faith in her. Walt Nadolny moved to adjourn, and Rohn seconded the motion. All votes by acclamation were in favor, and so the motion

to adjourn passed.

12. Chalice Extinguishing

Rev. Margret congratulated shared a few words as she extinguished the chalice.

13. Adjournment

The vote by acclamation was in favor of adjournment, which took place at 1:32 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Denario, Secretary