

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church of Watertown NY
Annual Meeting Minutes
June 12, 2022

Members Present: Eleanor Allen, Warren Allen, Catherine Burns, Rebecca Carr, Till Fritzsching, Erica Gardner, Karen Hall, Jim, Harter, Joanne Harter, Sylvia Heap, Janine LaClair, Amy Loomis,,Harriet McMillan, Frances Mercer, Sarah O'Connell, Lorraine Payette, Jo Reid, Kelly Sackheim, Robert South, Stacy Lowe, Shannon Starkweather-Burke, Patricia Sutherland, Paula, Trainham, Doug Venable, Heather Winn

CALL TO ORDER - 12:05 pm

In the presence of a quorum (20 active members), President Heather Winn brought the meeting to order following the morning's church service.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

MINUTES - Patricia Sutherland

Eleanor Allen **moved** and Sarah O'Connell seconded that **"we accept the minutes as written from the last Annual Meeting."** Motion carried.

COLLECTOR'S REPORT - Warren Allen

The report is in the meeting booklet. Warren gave this update for the time since that report was written: Of the 35 pledges from the current fiscal year, 24 are fully paid with a little extra, 10 are not yet finished, and the last one is 'probably paid but is complicated.'" There were no questions.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Eleanor Allen

Although the report is in the meeting booklet, Eleanor said the first paragraph was somehow left out, and she read it to us: "When the Finance Committee met with our accountant, Angelo Guarino, on April 6, 2022, we came to the conclusion that, once again, because of the continuing pandemic and the flood in the building, we didn't have enough information to formulate a new budget for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. All the reasons are listed in the Annual Meeting report. The Board, as a result of this, has recommended that we continue with our current budget. Eleanor **moved** and Kelly seconded **"that for the reasons listed in the Annual Report, we continue with our 2021-2022 budget for the upcoming church year."** She asked for any questions or discussion. Kelly withdrew her second, allowing the motion to drop.

Eleanor explained the charitable contributions for our current fiscal year. She noted that the Generosity Project, which we normally have contributed to with the undesignated cash in the collection plate, has very little funds (as of April there is \$488.45) due to using Zoom for most of our services. She listed several possibilities for using these monies and then **moved** and Robert seconded **"that we use any money left over from the \$2300 budgeted for charitable contributions to bolster up the amounts we would contribute to Planned Parenthood and The Victim's Assistance Center this year."** In response to a question, she stated that, if passed, this motion would direct what would have been the church's 50% of the amount to go to these organizations. Since the money was not actually donated, it would essentially come from our savings. It was suggested that we encourage special donations to the

Generosity Fund for the rest of the month. Eleanor **withdrew her motion**, being in favor of this suggestion.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Heather

The report is in the meeting booklet. Heather asked for any questions - there were none.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. MEMORIAL GARDEN REPORT - Catherine

Please read the report in the meeting booklet for a few policy changes. She asked for anyone both interested and able to volunteer to help in keeping the Garden in good shape. She is also considering using the funds in their MG account for hiring a professional to make the garden especially nice for our 200th anniversary next year. There is about \$2463 dollars available in their funds.

2. NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE - Sarah

The nominations are:

A. BOARD MEMBERS:

President - Heather Winn - continuing for a second 1-year term

Vice President - Amy Loomis - new for a 1-year term

Secretary - Sarah O'Connell - new for a 1-year term

Treasurer - Eleanor Allen - continuing for a 1-year term

Trustees: (Trustees may potentially serve a maximum of three consecutive 2-year terms and then must be off the Board for at least one year.)

1) Catherine Burns - continuing for the first year of a 3rd 2-year term

2) Janine La Clair - new for the first year of a 2-year term

3) Joanne Harter continuing for the 2nd year of her first two-year term

4) Shannon Starkweather-Burke - continuing for the 2nd year of her 3rd 2-year term

Sarah **moved** and Kelly seconded "**that we accept the slate as presented.**

There were no nominations from the floor. Motion **Carried.**

B. NOMINATING COMMITTEE: The Nominating Committee recommends the following slate to fill the open positions. Members of the Nominating Committee can serve for 3 one-year consecutive terms.

1) Kelly Sackheim - continuing (If elected, this will be her second of a possible three one-year terms.)

2) Robert South - new (If elected, this will be his first of a possible three one-year terms.)

3) Frances Mercer - new (If elected, this will be her first of a possible three one-year terms.)

Sarah asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were none. She then **moved**, with a second from Patricia, that we" **accept the Nominations Committee's slate.**" **Carried**

3. PROPOSED BUDGET - Eleanor

Eleanor, in light of all the reasons given in her Annual Treasurer's Report, **moved** and Kelly seconded that **"we continue with the present budget for the next fiscal year 7/2022 - 6/2023."** There was no discussion. Motion **Carried**.

4. SHARED PLATE - Robert

He has received only one suggestion so far for this year - WNCPR. Rebecca suggested we add Syracuse Immigrant and Refugee Defense Network, an organization of which she is a member and has also worked with and knows well. Catherine **moved** and Robert seconded that **we accept these two organizations as our Generosity Project recipients for the coming year**. Following discussion the motion **carried**.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Robert moved and Eleanor seconded that **we change our ByLaws in Article IV Section 3, in the first sentence to insert the word "active" between the words "All" and "members," making the sentence read "All active members of the church...."** Motion **carried**.

2. Robert **moved** and Eleanor seconded that **we change our By-Laws in Article V Section 3, in the first sentence by striking the word "Twenty" and inserting "A majority of active members"** making the sentence read **"A majority of active members qualified to vote...."** Motion **carried**.

3. Heather asked for discussion regarding our **Scholarship fund** for our children to attend **Camp Unirondack**. The process has been to apply for the scholarship by letting the Board know of the interest and how much is needed. For a number of years we have budgeted \$600 for attendance at Camp Unirondack. This year we have 2 interested children. Eleanor **moved** **"that until we have better rules and regulations about how this process is going to work, for this year we allocate \$515 for one child and \$85 to the other child, according to their needs."** Frances noted that this does not require a vote from the congregation. There was no second. Robert **moved** and Patricia seconded that **"we charge the Board with developing a Unirondack Scholarship Policy and an application form."** Motion **carried**.

4. Robert moved that **we establish a special rule of order as follows:** **"Without obtaining the floor, members may speak briefly in order to supply information, to make comments, or to ask questions of the person who has the floor. This process is controlled entirely by the person who has the floor, enforced by the Chair."** Eleanor **seconded** the motion. Note: There was no vote on this motion as we no longer had a quorum present.

Joanne asked to make a statement and thanked Pat Sutherland for stepping into the secretary job and making sense out of the sometimes confusing

Board meetings. Eleanor also thanked Robert for all the work he has done for the Board and other church meetings, including handling the Zoom, and keeping us in some kind of order.

Amy **moved to adjourn** the meeting. Motion **carried**.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia J Sutherland, Secretary