

Unity Church of Georgetown Minutes of the Annual Meeting, March 7, 2021

1. Trish Phelps called the meeting to order at 11:31 a.m.
2. Pam Braunig prayed us in.
3. Trish introduced the Church Board of Trustees who served last year: Brenda Ford, Dean Saulmon, Donna Rigueira, Kathy Harrison, and Liz Sackett. Gave thanks to Alice Cooper for continuing to serve with the board as an experienced and guiding force through 2020.
4. Dean Saulmon, Treasurer, made the financial report. Dean is also head of the budget team, which includes Rev. Linda, Trish Phelps and church members, Kay Ellen Shores and Sid Lane.
 - 4.1. 2020 Income and Expenses:
 - 4.1.1. Total Income: \$131,229 – including collections and mail-in, online donations, IRA donations (made directly from IRA accounts, to church account, tax free), and other. Budgeted \$119,000; so in spite of everything, our family was quite charitable.
 - 4.1.2. Total Expenses: \$111,9786 – minimal rent/storage, technology (considerably lower this past year); payroll was about 70% of total expenses (including music, administrative, minister); Tithes were about 20% of our expenses – 10% actual tithing, 10% pass through directly to Fruit and Veggie Sunday and Bucket of Hope.
 - 4.1.3. Net Income for 2020: \$19,253 – Significantly more than we expected.
 - 4.1.4. Income and Expense Comparison – had plateaued in 2018 and 2019 and was still in line in 2020 (once we subtract F&V Sunday and BoH). Although our net income had dropped in the previous three years, we are up again this year, due in large part to not meeting in person.
 - 4.1.5. Balance Sheet / Financial Status: Total cash assets have increase \$17,928 (money market account is up approximately \$20,000). Physical assets remain the same at \$6,254.
 - 4.1.6. Zero long-term liabilities.
 - 4.2. Estimated Budget for 2021:
 - 4.2.1. Generally, the budget is set based on last year's results plus any changes that we expect to see for the coming year. Specifically, for 2021, that means that the board has assumed that we will continue our Zoom services for the remainder of the year, and we terminated our rental contract with the Chamber of Commerce. We won't have any Sunday collections, our online donations will be a full year, IRA donations have likely reached a plateau, so our total income for 2021 is estimated at about \$132,808. Not too much different than 2020.
 - 4.2.2. On the expense side, no rent will be assumed, so our admin expenses have dropped. Payroll will continue to be at \$80K and 70% of our expenses. Tithes will

go up due to FV Sunday and bucket of hope at 21.6%. For total estimated expenses of \$114,500 and a net income of \$18,307.

- 4.2.3. Changes can be made to the budget if changes are made to our service presentation and we go from online to in person.
 - 4.2.4. Any questions? Or contact Dean if you wish.
 - 4.2.5. No questions.
5. Trish Phelps, President, presented minutes from previous annual meetings.
 - 5.1. Asked for any comments from the congregation regarding the minutes to last year's meeting(s). Pointed out why we have two annual meeting minutes: we adopted new bylaws in 2019 to make budgeting a more accurate process and we changed the annual meeting from November to March 2020. Had the November 2019 meeting then the March 2020 meeting for budget.
 - 5.2. Asked for motion to approve both of the minutes for annual meetings; Alice moved, Virginia [last name?] seconded. Approved unanimously.
 6. Rev. Linda report on events of 2020.
 - 6.1. It's been an unusual year as we scrambled to move the service online in a period of a few days just a year ago. The Schwankes did a miraculous job!
 - 6.2. Dean quickly modified the budget and we did a lot better than we thought we would.
 - 6.3. Our aim was to stay connected... Found we could do break-out sessions... Music was an issue for a few weeks, then we recorded it, and now we have found we can do it live again.
 - 6.4. A lot of this has been experiment – How do you do Zoom church? How do you stay connected? Would like input from everyone on what we need, how we can serve, and how we can grow as a spiritual community.
 - 6.5. We're financially very healthy, but there's more to a healthy church than finances – how do we grow in our connection with one another? Inviting one on one conversations to discuss this.
 - 6.6. Healthy in our board members and our ministries. Board members have been committed to being good stewards of this church. Thank you again to Alice for continuing to serve and support our board. Thank you to our board members.
 - 6.7. Thank you to the finance team – we continue to make an effort at financial transparency.
 - 6.8. Thank you to the prayer chaplains Pam Braunig, Therese Finn, Elizabeth Griffin, and Penny Seay – couldn't do my job without them.
 - 6.9. Rev. Linda introduced the other ministries:
 - 6.9.1. Pam Braunig who introduced the prayer team and discussed their work. The team has stayed strong in their commitment, making monthly wellness calls, daily spiritual practices, daily services for healing peace for the world, including individual requests.
 - 6.9.2. Acknowledge all those who participate in our Sunday services, doing the

readings, announcements, prayers.

- 6.9.3. Dona Holloway, Bucket of Hope and Fruit and Veggie Sunday. Served numerous places in our community – four agencies for three months at a time. Contacted each of those to find out what they needed in lieu of money donations. During Covid we've been collecting monetary donations, Dona and Jerry go shopping and deliver F&V. Thank you for your generous donations and support. The people who receive these gifts are overjoyed.
- 6.9.4. Fun and Fellowship Committee – led by Alice Cooper. Not a fundraising committee, but we plan events for people to try to get together. Haven't been able to do things in person, but trying to plan an online event once a month. Lunch and Learn has become Inquiring Minds, and we're having Dan do online concerts. May be planning some additional outdoor events. Free-cycle – free “recycling” event of swapping stuff. Any ideas or suggestions, please send an email to the church. We meet once a month via Zoom on a Tuesday evening.
- 6.9.5. Rev. Linda commented, We've talked about having a hybrid return to church – in person and Zoom – more outdoor events and gatherings; what does church look like? What wants to be created here? How can we manifest it for ourselves? How can we grow this consciousness?
- 6.9.6. Liz Sackett spoke about the Angel Team – volunteers provide transportation, phone calls, meals, run errands if needed.
- 6.9.7. Book Club – Alice Cooper - meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month from 10 am to noon. Via Zoom. Casual group. Not a book study. Pick a book, read it, and discuss the book. What we got out of it. The writer's style. Our next book is The Four Agreements, then the New Victor Frankl book, Yes to Life in spite of everything. We've had the author of a book come and speak to us. Whoever is in the group helps decide what we read. Expand your horizons. Another great way to get to know each other.
- 6.9.8. Cathy, Chris and Will do have their videos on – this is our technical team! They help us with our exciting, behind the scenes moments. We couldn't do without them. But when they've had to be away, we have had members step forward and create a stand-in zoom team. Thank you to all of those who have helped make these services happen.
- 6.9.9. Dan McMurrough – Thank you for wonderful music... such a joy to work with... THANK YOU!
- 6.9.10. We did an experiment this fall, reading “Falling Upward” and having volunteers to do a “deep dive” into the text and participated in really getting into the book study and helped with the presentation on Sunday morning. Thank you!
- 6.9.11. We recently had to move our things from the Chamber right after the winter storm/freeze – had great help from Trish Phelps, Donna and Orlando Rigueira, Alice Cooper, and Jerry Holloway to go through everything. The day we went to physically move, our mover wasn't available – so Jim, Trish, Donna and Orlando moved everything. Thank you!

Church is more than just an hour and a half on Sunday morning. This is your church – what do you want it to be? Email Rev. Linda at unitygeorgetownpastor...

What has functioned as church for 500 years is being reexamined all over – you are part of that creation.

6.9.12. Jackie Syers, our outreach for The Caring Place, meets quarterly with them to learn of their needs.

6.9.13. Brenda Ford and the prayer team – Brenda gathers up all the prayer requests and sends them to the prayer team and the prayer chaplains – we hold all of those concerns in prayer. So honored and blessed to be part of this team

Creating a consciousness of love and acceptance, spiritual companionship, is a collaborative effort and every voice is important.

7. Election of New Board Members

7.1. Trish calling on the membership to elect new board members. Nominating committee: Rev. Linda, Marilyn Lane, Evelyn Barringer, Therese Finn, and Alice Cooper.

7.2. Alice: Brenda Ford and Kathi Harrison terms expire. Brenda has served for two terms. Kathi is running for another term after serving to fill Dave Jenks' remainder. Both of them are willing to run again in their current capacities. Alice read from the bylaws regarding nominees for board service.

7.3. Trish: read about the election of board members from the bylaws. There are only two openings and only two nominees. Eligible to vote by voice. Unanimous approval of Kathi Harrison and Brenda Ford.

8. Trish – Change in the bylaws. Discrepancy regarding the nominating committee membership. Approve the change to have one member at large and one alternate; and one member from the board of trustees, in addition to the minister. (Vote missed and taken at the end of the meeting.)

9. Select new nominating team members to nominate two board members for next year.

9.1. Alice nominated Therese Finn, accepted. Approved.

9.2. Eugenia Koog nominated Jackie Syers as alternate, accepted. Approved.

10. Trish – any other business to discuss? Vote on bylaws – Alice and Brenda moved and seconded. Approved..

11. Meeting adjourned at 12:44 p.m.