

2024 Unitarian Universalist Meeting House Chatham
Annual Meeting Minutes – 6/16/24

Meeting was called to order at 11:44 am by the Moderator, Jeff Dykens

Jeff Dykens established a quorum of 25% of members including those on Zoom and over twenty members in the Sanctuary.

Minutes of 2023 were unanimously accepted after motion made by Mary Chestnut and seconded by Mary Parsons.

Program Council report:

Sue Bauer gave the final Program Council report, as the Board of Trustees will be taking over those responsibilities. She described this year as one of change and hard work on the part of all committees. Sandi Porter became chair of Social Activities. Gail Eldredge strengthened our community ties through Scouts, and the 4th of July event. Members and friends got together through Branching Out, MUUGS, and Osprey Point Gatherings.

Minister Remarks:

Rev. Tracy Johnson described this congregation as people devoted to taking good care of each other, and also deeply concerned about caring for our world and environment. She urges us to remember that the best way to achieve sustainability is to go out into the community where people can see and hear who we are and what we offer. She also reminds us that change is constant, and some conflicts are inevitable. In respect to our restructuring effort, Rev. Tracy suggests that it makes sense to simplify our administrative organization while we are a small congregation, knowing that we can adapt it again, if and when, we grow larger. She urges us to keep learning how to work together and stay together.

Treasurer's Report & Presentation of Proposed Budget for 2025 :

Joe Zahka reported that the forecast for fiscal year 2023-2024 is \$165,165 in income, \$151,706 in expense, and a surplus of \$13,459. The surplus is due to higher-than-expected income from pledge, plate and Thrift shop sources, plus savings from volunteer work on the grounds, and by taking Reserve interest as income. The 2024-2025 Budget forecast is \$159,500 income, \$157,917 for expense, with a surplus of \$1,583. It was proposed that additional \$1,000/month payments be put toward the Mortgage Principal. Motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made and seconded, and the Congregation approved it unanimously. In addition, Joe explained that the solar panels not only save paying for electricity, but also provide excess credits that we can donate. Furthermore, he and Mary Byrne are investigating the possibility of securing a 30% tax reduction for nonprofits to offset the cost of the solar panels.

President of Board of Trustees Remarks:

Outgoing President Jon Nye emphasized that his was a year of change: Cusp, Restructure, new leadership, new Mission Statement, and an experiment in moving to a single governance structure. Jon shared that the Board of Trustees (BOT) looked at different ways to get things done. That was scary at times, but this group worked together. Going forward, the BOT is smaller and has a slightly different mission than previously since it incorporates some of the functions of the pastor. Although we have adopted a "single governing body", Jon stressed that this smaller BOT can't pilot our ship along. Keeping our congregation and mission on track will require the work of all our members.

Presentation and Vote for New Slate of Leaders:

Deb Zahka announced the new nominees for the Nominating Committee. A motion to approve the slate of nominees was made and seconded, and the Congregation approved it unanimously.

The 2025 Board of Trustees Members are:

Danielle Jeanloz, President; Evan Howard, Vice President; Susan Paterson, Secretary; Dave Van Wye, Treasurer; Beth Avery, At Large

Additional Remarks by Rev. Tracy Johnson:

Rev. Tracy thanked the elected officers who have completed their terms of service, and she conducted a pledge of commitment (or covenant) between the congregation and this year's members of the Board of Trustees.

Presentation of Fleck Award for outstanding service during the year 2023-2024:

Jon Nye announced the recipients: Liz and Dave Van Wye, and Danielle Jeanloz. Liz and Dave provided leadership in Cusp, the Minister Search Committee, the Endowment Board, and Board of Trustees. They also volunteer in the Thrift Shop. Danielle Jeanloz took a leading role in Restructuring, Board of Trustees planning, development of e-Communications, and collaboration with our two administrative contract workers.

A motion to adjourn the Meeting at 12:30 pm was made and seconded. All agreed.

Minutes submitted by Beth Avery and Susan Patterson