

# Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Charlottesville Congregational Meeting : 6/27/21 Draft Minutes

The Congregational meeting started at 1:02 pm

- 1. Introduction:** Lorie Craddock, President
- 2. Parliamentary lesson:** Kelsey Cowger, Parliamentarian.
- 3. Call to order & establish quorum:** Lorie called the Congregational Meeting of the UU C'ville to come to order at 1:10 pm. The first order of business was to establish a quorum. Membership stood at 371 members as of May 7, 2021. According to our Bylaws 10 percent of the membership or 38 members constitute a quorum. Lorie requested a report from the head teller, **Breck Gastinger**, who reported a count of **48 members** and certified that this constituted a quorum. Lorie recognized that a quorum was established and our Congregation may conduct business.
- 4. Greeting:** Lorie welcomed everyone to this virtual Congregational Meeting. Lorie invited everyone to read the Covenant along with her. Lorie recognized Hayley Owens, taking minutes for the Secretary of the Board; the Parliamentarian, Kelsey Cowger; the staff of our congregation, and the technical team.

It was explained that there will be three items upon which we will vote at the conclusion of the presentations and discussions. The use of "Election Buddy" was explained.

- 5. Opening words and chalice lighting-** Reverend Leia Durland-Jones
- 6. Approval of the agenda of this meeting** There were no additions or changes suggested for the agenda. A motion was made to approve the agenda. This motion was seconded and a majority of the member participants voted in favor to approve the agenda.
- 7. Approval of the minutes of the June 6, 2021 UU C'ville Congregational Meeting** There were no additions or corrections to the June 6, 2021 minutes. A motion was made to approve these minutes. This motion was seconded and a majority of the member participants voted in favor to approve the minutes.
- 8. Ministers Report,** Rev. Linda Olson Peebles

No report to be made today. See report from the June 6, 2021 Annual Meeting.

## **9. Presidents Report, Lorie Craddock**

Lorie offered a quick thank you and encouraged everyone to to increase their service to the congregation. See Annual Report for more information.

## **10. Change to ByLaws to include our name, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Charlottesville: Elizabeth Breeden**

No discussion

## **11. The introduction to the nomination for the open At Large position to the Board of Trustees: Anne Salamini.**

Steve Brecker has been nominated to the open At Large position of the Board of Trustees for a two year term. There were no further nominations from the floor.

A motion was made by a member to accept this nomination for a vote. This motion was seconded by a member.

## **12. UU C'ville Treasurer's Report June 27, 2021: Stan Walker**

We are at the end of an extremely challenging year. With \$83,000 in help from the government, we were able to get through it without having to make drastic cuts. We will possibly even have a small surplus at the end of it.

The year before we only got through with the help of a \$40,000 no interest loan. Without that, we would have faced some difficult choices.

We are about to vote on our next budget. There are no loans or grants this time. We have, however, had the most successful pledge drive in our history! We still faced a difficult choice, though, because even with that increased support, we couldn't afford to maintain our current staff. We are forced to phase out the Assistant Minister position nine months earlier than we had originally planned. We are also unable to pay the UUA more than a sixth of our fair share for the coming year, or set aside more than the barest minimum for any emergencies. BUT, the budget is balanced, and we are self sufficient and not spending our savings for the first time in at least 5 years. This is no small accomplishment, and it is to all of our credit. The Board President, Lorie, whose commitment to openness and transparency was an essential part of rebuilding trust. The rest of the Board, who enthusiastically followed her lead, and worked tirelessly on behalf of the Congregation. Leia, our longest-term staff member, and Alex, who we will miss terribly, who together guided us through that first year without a called minister. Our newest (hopefully permanent) staff member Sean, who has become so essential in so many ways (be nice to him, we need to keep him!) Reverend Linda, who has made this last year SO much more joyful than

it would have been otherwise. All the people who worked on the pledge drive. All of the other volunteers who do so much of the necessary work and fund-raising, and all those who responded so generously to the pledge drive. All deserve praise for making this possible.

It's a good, even excellent, start. But it is still a start. We want to pay the staff what they deserve, rather than just what we can afford. We need to start making our full fair share payments to the UUA the way we used to. We need desperately to start rebuilding our reserve funds so another bad financial year won't be a disaster. Some of the money to pay for these will come as we re-open more fully, but the rest will still need to come from the membership. This is not yet the time to rest on our laurels.

I was thrilled that Kay Frazier agreed to be the next Treasurer. Her experience makes her well suited and qualified for the position, and I am confident that she will be an excellent Treasurer. Please treat her as well as you have treated me. And please continue to support this Congregation generously with both your money and your time. We still need everyone to pitch in if we're going to be successful in the long term.

Thank you all!  
Stan Walker

*A member moved to accept this Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. A member seconded this motion. There was no discussion.*

Voting took place using the on-line program "Election Buddy".  
***All three motions have passed.***

**13. Closing words and extinguishing of the chalice:** Rev. Linda Olson Peebles

**14. Adjournment of the meeting:** A motion was made to adjourn the congregational meeting. The motion was seconded and the majority of the member participants voted in the affirmative and the meeting was adjourned.

- Minutes submitted by Beth Jaeger-Landis, Secretary of the Board