

First Unitarian Church of Toledo  
Sunday, May 17, 2020

Minutes of the Congregational Annual Meeting  
1:00 p.m., via Zoom

1. **Meeting** called to **order** by Board President Sandra Kosek-Sills, 1:00 p.m.
2. **Opening Words** from Rev. Tim (“We are doing the work of the congregation”)
3. **Zoom Etiquette**—from Board member Arun Nadarajah: Sandra will designate who can speak; anyone desiring to speak should use the Zoom “Raise Hand” feature; we will follow Robert’s Rules of Order and save general comments until the end of the meeting
4. **Board President Comments**—from Sandra: being President has been a big spiritual journey for her; she has been led by our covenant to Love  
--she offered Thanks to church volunteers; Board Members; Committee Chairs and members; activity participants; office volunteers and paid staff; and Commissioned Lay Leaders; for all that everyone does and contributes to the operation of our church.  
--re: the church’s Financial Position: we are in a good place, better than we were in 1999 in terms of pledges and giving; we can expect to hear an explanation of our spending during the canvassing stewardship drive next year  
--re: Membership: we have been experiencing ~2% decline per year, which means that our current members actually pledge *more* than folks in 1999 did
5. **Rev. Tim’s Annual Report**—he offered a different kind of report this year; he wants to give some context for future Boards, especially related to the church’s move to an electronic environment as required by the COVID19 pandemic; his primary goal has been to continue to provide quality worship services on Sunday mornings via Zoom and by uploading the recorded services to the Toledo Unitarians channel of YouTube
6. **Ballot Explanation**—from Board secretary Elliot Adams: since we are meeting electronically, we will not be casting our votes right now—rather, we will vote by mail; all should have received their ballots for the four items under consideration (new Board members; new Nominating Committee members; Bylaws revision statements; and 2020-2021 Budget). Please read each item carefully, and then clearly check the box marked Yes or No; please sign and date your ballot, insert it into the self-addressed stamped envelope, and mail it back ASAP—all ballots must be received by Monday, June 8, to be counted.
7. **Presentation of slates for election**—for Board Officers & Members: Carol Keierleber; for Nominating Committee: Sandra Kosek-Sills
8. **Presentation of Proposed Bylaws Amendment**—by Sandra; in answer to a question, Rev. Tim explained his role/activity on all committees except the Ministerial Search Committee and the Minister’s 3-year Review Committee;  
--Sandra announced that ballots will be mailed out this coming week and should arrive at everyone’s home by Friday, May 22, 2020
9. **Presentation of Annual Budget**—by Board Vice President Krista Schneider; Krista explained that we are presenting a budget balanced by having made some conscious choices: first, the Budget is based on projected pledge income (and the Board will *closely* monitor the money this year), and second, by reducing the RE Director’s number of paid work hours, as explained in the Budget Explanation Meetings last week. Further, the Board, in conjunction with the Auction Committee *will* figure out how to present an auction, since it provides a significant income for the church. No questions were advanced at this time.  
--Rev. Tim placed a link to the Annual Report in the Zoom chat for people to reference if needed.

--Sandra posted the Budget ballot item in the Zoom screen for all to see; in answer to a question of how RE would move forward this year, Sandra said that there would need to be considerably more volunteer participation in order for RE to run effectively.

--in answer to a question about ballot distribution, Sandra clarified that each voting member would receive a ballot: so, a household with two signed members would receive two ballots; each should fill out their own ballot and return mail it.

10. **Other questions**—in the Annual Report, what does “click rate” mean? Re: the FYI and other electronic communications, it means the engagement with marketing material (in our case, the FYI, Special FYIs, and other emails)

--re: the endowment as held by Toledo Trust Company: David Strickler compared the fees between TTC and the UUA’s Common Endowment Fund (which is invested in socially conscious companies), and he learned that the fees are currently very similar; so, he sees no immediate need to shift our endowment from TTC to the UUA’s CEF, but we might consider it in the future

--no further questions about any ballot items or any items in the Annual Report

11. **Ballot Explanation Reminder**—from Board secretary Elliot Adams: repeat of the information at the beginning of the meeting; no questions

12. **Closing Words**—from Rev. Tim

13. **Thanks to all for attending** from Sandra

14. **Adjourn** at 2:00 (the meeting was scheduled from 1:00-2:45, so we finished early! All seemed satisfied with the information and explanations)