

**First Unitarian Church of Toledo**  
**Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes**  
May 22, 2022, 1:00 pm, in-person at the church

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**Quorum**

This congregation has 135 individuals on the current list of Voting Members. Present for this meeting today, either in person or by proxy, were **56** individuals, or 41 ½ percent of our membership

**Call to Order**

Past-President and Certified Lay Minister, David Strickler, declared a quorum present to conduct business, and invited Rev. Tim Barger to give opening words.

**Opening Words from Rev. Tim Barger**

*Chalice Lighting for the Work of the Congregation*  
by Erik Walker Wikstrom

*As we approach our agenda  
let us remember that we are doing the work of the congregation.  
When we do the work of this congregation, we touch lives.  
When we touch lives, we change the world.  
May this chalice flame we now kindle  
remind us throughout our meeting  
of our ministry and our mission.*

[The Rev. Erik Walker Wikstrom is the former Worship and Music Resources Director for the Unitarian Universalist Association and has served congregations in Yarmouth, Maine, and Brewster, Massachusetts.]

**President's Report**

President Sandra Kosek-Sills was attending via Zoom, and would be voting by proxy, as she has recently recovered from COVID. Sandra welcomed members of the congregation, expressing appreciation for various volunteers. She recognized the importance of the Spiritual Adventures forum, and thanked that small committee for their tireless work. She mentioned that we are coming back together, with activities such as the yard sale and the spring tea party, and encouraged more in-person gatherings. She expressed a special thanks to our staff for their work through the pandemic. Sandra said we have strong finances in some areas, and not in others, and announced the capital campaign next year.

### **Committee on Shared Ministry**

The following candidates for service on the Committee on Shared Ministry were put forward: Melanie Christiansen, and Terry Acocks. Phil Teitlebaum is rotating off, and Kathy Crowther will be returning. **By a strong majority vote, the congregation approved this slate with gratitude.**

### **Endowment Committee**

The Endowment Committee has oversight over our monies being managed locally by the Trust Family Company, consisting of: an operating fund of about \$360,000 (fixed income and cash) with 5% available annually; a restricted fund of about \$30,000 (stock market) where we let the interest accumulate; and the capital campaign fund of about \$45,000. The Endowment Committee is recommending moving to more “ESG funds” (Environmentally responsible, Socially responsible, Governance), possibly the UUA Common Endowment Fund. There was enthusiastic discussion about fee load. The committee requested a straw vote on whether to move to more socially-responsible funds. **By a strong majority, the congregation voted in favor of continuing this investigation.**

### **Minister’s Report**

Senior Minister, the Rev. T.K. Barger gave his report, also found elsewhere in the published Annual Report.

### **Proposed By-Laws Change**

David Strickler read the language of the proposed change in the number of members of the board of trustees.

#### **Article VII. Governance**

**B. The Board.** The board shall consist of four officers (president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer) and ~~five~~ three Members elected by majority vote of the Congregation at the annual meeting. If the treasurer decides to be an ex-officio non-voting member of the board, thereby leaving three officers, then the Congregation shall elect a ~~sixth~~ fourth Member to be a general member of the board. The term shall be staggered two-year terms. The minister, any commissioned lay leader, and immediate past-president shall serve as ex-officio non-voting Members of the board. The board may have a Youth Member serve as an optional ex-officio member of the board. The Religious Educator shall submit one Youth Member’s name to the nominating committee. Approval of the candidate shall be by election at the annual meeting.

**A vote was taken. The congregation was largely in favor of this proposed change to the by-laws, and the motion passed.**

### **Election of Officers to the Board of Trustees**

Nominations were put forward for the positions of Vice-President and Treasurer of the Board of Trustees:

Vice-President of the Board of Trustees	Colette Cordova
Treasurer of the Board of Trustees	Carol Kierlieber

**By a strong majority vote, the congregation approved this slate of candidates and they were elected, with gratitude. Members of the Board of Trustees of the First Unitarian Church of Toledo are listed below:**

Sandra Kosek-Sills (President)	(continuing, two-year term ending June 30, 2023)
Krista Schneider (Vice President)	(two-year term ending June 30, 2022, rotating off)
Colette Cordova (Vice President)	(two-year term ending June 30, 2024)
Hydie Ralston (Treasurer)	(two-year term ending June 30, 2022, rotating off)
Carol Kierlieber (Treasurer)	(two-year term ending June 30, 2024)
Eva Slawson (Secretary)	(continuing, two-year term ending June 30, 2023)
Robin Stone	(continuing, two-year term ending June 30, 2023)
Judy Murray	(continuing, two-year term ending June 30, 2023)
Phil Zepp	(continuing, two-year term ending June 30, 2023)
Mary Souther	(rotating off the board)
Teresa Betts-Cobau	(rotating off the board)
Rev. TK (Tim) Barger	(Non-voting Board Member)
David Strickler	(Certified Lay Minister, Non-voting Board Member)
Melissa Jeter	(Student Minister, Non-voting Board Member)

### **Nominating Committee**

Two names were put forward to join the Nominating Committee: Krista Schneider and Susan Smith.

**By a strong majority vote, the congregation approved this slate of candidates and they were elected, with gratitude.**

### **Budget**

On a weekday evening via Zoom, and on a Saturday morning at the church building, the proposed budget for the next fiscal year was discussed at two meetings in the weeks prior to this annual meeting. President Sandra Kosek-Sills presented the budget. Nick Conrad moved to accept the budget, with a second by Terry McCauley. **A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed, with no opposing votes.**

**Closing Words from Rev. Tim Barger**

*With faith in the creative powers of life*  
by Lindsay Bates

*The Quakers speak not of a "worship service" but of their Meeting*

*-- hence this benediction:*

*With faith in the creative powers of life,  
With hope for the future of life in this world,  
With love for all others who share this life with us,  
Let us go forward together in peace.  
Our meeting has ended; let our service begin.*

The 2022 Annual Meeting was adjourned at 1:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Eva Slawson,  
Secretary of the Board of Trustees  
June 27, 2022..