

Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church Annual Meeting of the Congregation

The 113th Annual Meeting of Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church was held in Founders Hall on Sunday, 19 May 2019 with the following Officers in attendance: Kate Tomlinson, President; Sarah-Wade Smith, Vice President; Donald Zeilman, Clerk; John Luff, Treasurer.

I Call to Order

President Kate Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 12:03 PM, Reverend David McFarland offered a prayer and the chalice was lit. Kate led a short reflection on “Our Reason for Being”: expressions of why each of us is here.

The Clerk determined that there was a quorum present at the call to order for the conduct of the business of the congregation.

II Business

1. Minutes: The Minutes of the May 20, 2018 Annual Meeting were distributed beforehand for review. There were no changes or correction. Terri Hammond moved to accept the Minutes as written, no discussion. **Motion Carries**

2. Introductions: Kate Tomlinson introduced the current Trustees on the Board, and expressed gratitude to the Trustees who were out-going. Kate shared words from Laura Conkle who could not be present.

3. Nominations for Trustee: Chair calls upon the Clerk to present a slate of candidates selected by the Nominating Committee: Patrick Burke (first term) and Sarah-Wade Smith (second term) for the three open seats.

The Chair takes nominations from the floor. None are offered.

The ballots are cast and collected by the tellers. Poll is closed. Ballots are counted. Clerk reports that all candidates received majority votes and are elected.

4. Delegates to General Assembly: Kate Tomlinson introduces the process and states that Allegheny is entitled to two delegates at General Assembly. The Board nominated Sarah-Wade Smith, who has accepted the nomination.

The Chair takes nominations from the floor. None are offered.

Clerk moves that Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church designate Sarah-Wade Smith as its delegate to UUA General Assembly 2019. **Motion Carries**

5. Financial Report: John Luff and Kate Tomlinson.

a) FY 2018 Income (through April 30): Income was in line with previous years.

- » Regular gifts up 3.0%
- » End-of-Year campaign is rather flat compared to last year, up \$238, 3.6%
- » Rentals are down 5.7% over FY2018 which was also down 12.5%
- » StP is down 6.5%.

b) FY 2018 Expenses (through April 30): Expenses are in line with the previous year.

- » Operating Expenses are up 2.6%
- » Utility costs didn't change.
- » \$7,925 in capital expense due to repairs on Unitarian House (box gutters)

c) Cash and Investments

- » May 2018 – \$197,372, up 11.1%
- » 2/3 of increase is prepaid FY2019 pledges
- » Total as of April 2019: \$197,626

d) Operating Income

- » Through April, operating loss of <\$1,769>, last year was <\$2,951>
- » Expected full-year operating loss of <\$2,500 to \$5,000>

6. FY19 Budget: Income projected at \$102,500 (85% from contributions). Expenses are “very lean” at \$110,000 (70% ministry, 20% operations). This is a deficit budget.

“Closing the Gap”

- » Increase pledging from \$68,000 to \$73,000 or more
- » Increase pledging units and increase pledges; move more regular visitors to membership
- » Fund raise \$2,000 or more
- » Increase participation in Giant Eagle and Amazon Smile fundraising programs
- » Increase rental income

Question: where are Allegheny funds invested? Our funds are split 50/50 between two UUA investment funds. Church has no active participation in the investments, but the UUA is generally decreasing its investments in non-socially-responsible funds. The Endowment Fund is not controlled by the Board.

7. Ministries: Rev. Dave reports for Worship, In-Reach and Religious Education Ministries.

- » The ministries are the heart and soul of the congregation, and all of us are ministers
- » Ministry is about celebrating life, and creating more joy
- » Ministry is growing into our own souls and being willing to have difficult conversations
- » Worship doesn't end at the benediction, but goes beyond the doors
- » We are always evaluating what it means to be a small, urban church in the 21st century
- » Expresses gratitude to everyone who makes ministry happen.

8. Committees & Work Groups: Kate Tomlinson reports, noting that these volunteer work groups report to the Board, and do some of the essential church work. Kate refers to, and highlights the 2019 Annual Report to the Congregation (previously distributed).

9. Stewardship: Tiffany Merriman-Preston reporting. The annual pledge appeal will be underway. Packets will be mailed, and also available online and at church.

10. Strategic Planning Update: Kate leads the discussion.

Strategic Planning Objectives:

- » Develop a concise, actionable strategic plan for Allegheny that reflects our mission and vision
- » Emphasis on how we become more welcoming, inclusive, and accessible.
- » Identify priority areas and outline short-, mid-, and long-term steps to achieve them.
- » Celebrate and build on our strengths

Identified an understanding of conflict management as a necessary base for moving forward. Healthy practices, such as differentiating the conflict of ideas from interpersonal conflict, are required. Healthy conflict exists between ideas, not between people.

The Right Relations Team as formulated in the congregation's covenant documents, does not exist, and the conflict resolution process has not been used. Interpersonal conflict has remained.

Next steps in the strategic plan process requires congregational participation:

- » Participating in the next session that will discuss committees and church work;
- » Providing feedback on the presented draft;
- » Being aware of, and tolerating, conflict around ideas;
- » Committing to make the plan work – making it happen.

The next steps for the planning team includes a developing a strategy to achieve the plan, and developing a timeline for putting the plan into effect.

11. Endowment Update: The endowment fund continues to grow, both through contributions and investment with the UUA Common Endowment Fund (about \$30,700 in fund and \$13,000 in the transfer checking account). The Committee predicts that at the current rate, the interest from the endowment fund could be available 15 to 20 years in the future.

Eric Meisberger (Committee Chair) moves that the following slate of candidates be elected/re-elected to three-year terms on the Endowment Fund Committee: Mark Tomlinson, Sarah Mocker, and John Engberg. No discussion. **Motion Carries**

12. Questions

UU Pittsburgh Cluster: are they providing support? Cluster board asked and Allegheny's response is the Strategic Plan. Allegheny will have to promote the process at the individual congregations.

13. Gratitude: Among those noted are Peggy Thompson, Liz Dell, Terri Hammond, Mark Tomlinson, Patrick Burke, Donald Zeilman, and Kate Tomlinson.

III Adjournment

Sarah-Wade Smith moves to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carries.**

Kate Tomlinson adjourns the 113 Annual Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Donald G. Zeilman, Clerk 2018–2019