

# **CHAMPLAIN VALLEY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY**

## **2020 Annual Meeting Minutes Draft-June 7 2020**

Members of the Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society are hereby warned of the 2020 Annual Meeting, which is to take place via Zoom on Sunday, June 7, 2020, following the worship service.

### **I. Introduction of current Board of Trustees; review of Zoom procedures**

- Priscilla Bremser called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.
- All Board members were introduced.
- Jordan Young provided instructions on using Zoom; made use of a sample question. There was some difficulty with polling via Zoom, but procedures seemed to function well.

### **II. Our thanks to the CVUUS Staff**

- Priscilla thanked staff, especially for dealing with Covid-19: Laura Asermily, Kris Butler, Poppy Rees, and Lucy Tenenbaum.

### **III. VOTE to suspend the rules and allow our newest members to vote at this meeting**

- Priscilla indicated that this motion would allow 3 new members of CVUUS to vote, which generally requires 6 weeks following the membership book signing.
- Vote to suspend rules passes: 68 yes; 3 no.

### **IV. VOTE to approve of 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes and the April 19 2020 Special Meeting Minutes**

- Motion was made to approve minutes.
- Paul Stone raised a question regarding the long-term budget planning; Mary reported that she and Steve Meier had met but further planning had not occurred.
- Seth Gibson pointed out a minor editing mistake on the budgeting sheet: sextant should be sexton. This change was made to the minutes.
- Minutes approved as amended: 68 yes; 2 no

### **V. REPORT: Governing Board: Barnaby, Priscilla, Doug**

- Priscilla provided short report on what the CVUUS Board achieved over the past year:
  - The Ministerial Monitoring Reports revised in full.
  - Ends Statement revision completed.
  - 5-year plan revision occurring: Board member have been consulting with committees and congregants.
  - Started a Personnel Team.
  - Created Covid-19 Policy Group.
- Priscilla mentioned the important contributions of the Council of Ministries and Leadership Team to the Boards work.

## **VI. REPORT: Nominating Committee**

- Colleen Brown announced slate of nominees for the Board and Nominating Committee.

## **VII. VOTE for Elected Officers for Board of Trustees – 3-year term**

Vote to close nominations from the floor—physical hand vote showed a clear majority.

Vote of “yes” or “no” on each:

### **Proposed Slate:**

Mary Hadley (Second Term 7/1/20-6/30/23)

Ann Webster (First Term 7/1/20-6/30/23)

Vote = 72 yes; 0 no

### **Informational: Continuing Board of Trustees members (2020-21)**

- Mark Spritzer (Second Term 7/1/19-6/30/22)
- Kas Singh (First Term 7/1/18-6/30/21)
- Douglas Richards (First Term 7/1/18-6/30/21)
- Priscilla Bremser (First Term 7/1/19-6/30/22)
- Kerri Duquette-Hoffman (First Term 7/1/19-6/30/22)

## **VIII. VOTE for officers**

### **Proposed Slate: Board of Trustees officers**

Kas Singh, Clerk (Term: July 1, 2020--June 30, 2022)

Vote = 76 yes; 2 no

### **Informational: Continuing Board of Trustees officers**

- Priscilla Bremser President (Term: July 1, 2019-June 30, 2021)
- Douglas Richards Vice President (Term: July 1, 2019-June 30, 2021)
- Mary Hadley, Treasurer (Term: July 1, 2018-June 30, 2020)

## **IX. VOTE for Nominating Committee Members – 2-year term**

### **Proposed Slate**

Allison Cutler (First Term, July 1, 2020-June 30, 2022)

### **Continuing Nominating Committee member and new chair:**

Catherine "Catie" Raishart (First Term, July 1, 2019-June 30, 2021)

### **New Board of Trustees appointee**

Douglas Richards (to serve for as long as he is VP of Board)

Vote = 71 yes; 0 no

#### **X. Report: Finance Team and Governing Board: Mary Hadley**

- Mary Hadley provided the proposed budget and recommended adopting budget as presented in the packet.
- Paul Stone pointed out that the actual expenditures for the current year are not available and it would be useful to know this. He also pointed out that on the first page there is an apparent surplus of \$15,000?
  - Mary explained that we are expecting a surplus due to increased pledges and reduced building use, and this is an estimated surplus.
- Paul asked for clarification about the PPP Grant.
  - Mary explained that this is the PPP Loan, which will become a grant that we do not need to repay due to the nature of the program.
- Paul asked for clarification regarding the Middlebury Checking account and the building reserve account.
  - Mary indicated that the National Bank of Middlebury account provides liquid assets.
  - Mary reported that the Shelter Rock account lost money due to the stock market crash.
- Priscilla Bremser pointed out trade-offs between including useful details about the budget vs. providing excessive information to the congregation. The main focus of our current discussion should be on moving around funds or changing our plans.
- Mary stated that she will work with Paul on how best to report our budget.
  - We have 5 months liquidity, which is above the UUA 3-month recommendation.
  - The proposed budget involves using \$16,000 more than what is expected to come in, which means dipping into our reserves.
- Anne Webster requested more detail regarding budget reporting in the future.
- Kris Butler briefly summarized the church's assets.
- Vote to end discussion: approved based on physical hands.

**VOTE: Approval of Budget** for July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

- Vote: 73 yes; 2 no

#### **XI. VOTE to Affirm a Global Ends statement**

- Mark Spritzer provided a summary of the 2-year endeavor by the Board to revise the Ends Statement within the church's Policy Governance Manual. The main changes involved increasing statements of inclusivity and modifying the formatting to make the statement more accessible to all congregants. The current Ends Statement has an emphasis on age groups, while the revised statement mentions a wider range of groups. Mark added that one issue that the Board struggled with was distinguishing between our Ends Statement and a Church Mission Statement. Although the two could be the same document, the Board concluded that these do not necessarily need to be the same.

- Paul Stone proposed revision to statement submitted by the Board. He felt that the proposed statement is too passive. Lack of clear responsibility and detailed mentioning of groups. Missing mention of love as well.
- Rich Wolfson recommended capitalize the word “Earth”. This was immediately added as a friendly amendment.
- Poppy Rees would like to see a mission statement developed that could be used by the RE program. She expressed concern that this is an unclear Mission statement. She would like to have a single statement that we can easily memorize.
- Priscilla Bremser emphasized that the goal of the Ends Statement is to guide the governance work of the Board. We need a mission statement, but that could be separate. A goal for the next year could be to develop a mission statement.
- Dorothy Mammen stated that she was on Board when previous statement was drafted. She felt that the older version provided Ends that were easier to measure, while the newer version is less measurable.
- Liam Battjes Greenwood suggested the addition of: “discovering and living lives of compassion and justice in the world”.
- Kate Gridley stated that both a Mission statement and Ends statement effect how Board governs and how operations happen. We should all operate under the same mission statement and Ends.
- Brett Millier provided some history of the document. We wanted the document to say what we wanted to do rather than aspirations.
- Mary Hadley stated that the Board knows that the Ends State was not only for the Board, and that is why we worked to tie together age, race, and other groups. The Board spent time working on this and opportunity was given for congregational input.
- Poppy Rees stated that she hopes that a mission statement will be action oriented.
- Jean Terwilliger stated that the first sentence of the proposed Ends Statement could be a mission statement; suggested adding “recognizing” to 2<sup>nd</sup> statement.
- Priscilla Bremser stated that we perhaps need overall mission statement, but our past congregation conversation about the Ends Statement had low participation.
- Robin Sheau suggested that we could postpone the matter.
- Elizabeth Golden expressed a willingness to participate in revisions.
- Liam Battjes Greenwood proposed approving the statement provisionally.
- Anne Christie suggested that a group will need to be formed to modify the wording. We should convene a working group to develop a new draft.
- Kerri D-H.: many of the comments seem to have been word-smithing; there seem to be many desires for changes in substance.
- Jordan Young indicated that there was a motion (Zoom chat) to call the question.
  - Motion and second to end debate.
  - Vote: 58 yes; 1 no
- **Vote to postpone Ends Statement revision = 51 yes; 11 no**

## **XII. VOTE on keeping our Pride Flag raised**

The Pride flag has been up for a year. Do we want to keep it up permanently? This is the process we followed with the Black Lives Matter flag.

- Bobbi Loney stated that we have 2 flags up. The desire is to keep the pride flag up permanently.
- Steve Maier supported desire to make the flag more prominent.
- Anne Christie asked what is meant by permanently.
- Bobbi stated that we want to avoid voting on this every year. She suggested that we vote to keep flag up “indefinitely”.
- Elizabeth Golden also liked the idea that we make the flag more prominent, and suggested adding this to motion.
- John Barstow: work with facilities team.

Fly pride flag indefinitely: Vote: 55 yes; 0 no

### **XIII. Recognitions, thank you!**

- Priscilla: thanked Bobbi Loney for her time on the Board; Mark Spritzer for work as clerk; Colleen Brown for time on nominating committee; Jordan and Margy Young for organizing the meeting; staff members at the meeting today; Barnaby for being cheerful and realistic; thanks to everyone for attending.
- Elizabeth Golden thanked Mary Hadley for her hard work as Treasurer.
- Kerri thanked Priscilla

### **XIV. Other Business that may regularly come before this meeting.**

- Priscilla: election of delegates to General Assembly
  - Dale Birdsall willing to serve as delegate.
  - Allen Moore willing to serve as delegate.
  - Elizabeth Golden willing to serve as a delegate.
  - Jean Terwilliger willing to act as an alternate.
  - Mike Greenwood?

### **XV. Adjournment**

1:05 p.m. meeting adjourned.