

**First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor**  
**Congregational Meeting, January 26, 2020**  
**Minutes**

**Pre-Meeting** – *As the large congregational turnout was entering and settling into the room, Erik Stalhandske noted that Eppi Potts, UUAA member of more than 60 years, was celebrating her 95th birthday. The congregation joined in a joyful rendition of Happy Birthday.*

**Call to Order** – BOT President Erik Stalhandske called the meeting to order at 11:33 AM

**Chalice Lighting** – Board of Trustees (BOT) President Erik Stalhandske Dixey Hibner and Bob Hospadaruk joined Erik on the chancel for the chalice lighting, as the congregation recited our

**Declaration of Quorum** – A quorum was declared by BOT Secretary Rick Witten

**Adoption of Agenda**

BOT President Erik Stalhandske noted that the business portion of the meeting would be brief to allow for the Vision 20/50 activities. Erik called for a motion to adopt the agenda for the business meeting.

**Moved:** Constance Dickinson

**Second:** Colleen Crowley

**Approved:** By unanimous voice vote

**Adoption of Waiver of Requirement for Voting Privileges**

Erik polled the congregation and discovered that a new member was present, so he called for a motion to suspend the four month requirement for new member voting privileges, as allowed by our Bylaws.

**Moved:** Ken Clein

**Second:** Carolyn Barber

**Approved:** By unanimous voice vote

**Vote to become the sponsoring congregation for theresa rohlck's ordination**

Erik introduced the topic of voting for UUAA to be the sponsoring congregation of theresa rohlck's ordination. He explained that paper ballots would be used, rather than a voice vote, because the congregation has approved absentee voting, which allows members who could not be present to participate in the vote.

Erik noted that theresa is a long time member of the congregation and has completed the work and obligations to become an ordained minister. Erik recognized theresa, who stood and received an enthusiastic ovation. Theresa's ordination is endorsed and supported by our Senior Minister, the Board of Trustees, and the institution where she completed her course work. At UUAA, theresa leads the Handbell Choir and has been a leader of Sunday Services from the pulpit, among other contributions.

Erik shared that UUAA has previously sponsored the ordination of Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich and Rev. Andrew Webber. A date of June 6th has been set for the ordination, if approved by the congregation. The Board of Trustees will oversee planning and fundraising for the event. Expenses, including travel and lodging for people important to theresa, is estimated to be approximately five thousand dollars. Erik invited congregants interested in participating in the planning work group to contact the BOT.

Erik entertained a motion to hold a vote for the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor to serve as the sponsoring congregation for the ordination of theresa rohlck.

**Moved:** Beth Hospadaruk

**Second:** Carolyn Madden

**Approved:** By voice vote

The congregation began filling out the ballots provided with the meeting materials.

### **Adoption of January 2019 Congregational Meeting Minutes**

While the ballots were being filled out and collected, Erik called for a motion to adopt the Winter 2019 Congregational Meeting Minutes.

**Moved:** Pete Mooney

**Second:** John Kasab

**Approved:** By unanimous voice vote

### **Budget, Pledge Drive and Stone Soup Report – Interim Administrator Ed Lynn**

Prior to calling Ed Lynn to the chancel, Erik pointed out that he has served the congregation as Interim Administrator for four and a half years. To honor the sacrifices he and his wife have undertaken, Erik called for the congregation to recognize Barbara Lynn. A rousing cheer was raised. With that, Ed stepped to the microphone to provide an update on the congregational finances.

During the annual pledge campaign, Ed's practice is to track progress relative to the previous budget year. This year, two months and two weeks into the campaign, contributions were \$70,000 and 37 pledge units behind. This forecasted a significant shortfall, so a second ask was organized and dubbed "Stone Soup".

Ed was pleased to report that since the second ask an additional \$107,000 was pledged (an increase of \$16,000 or last year), and a total of 404 pledge units (23 more than last year) participated in the campaign. There has been a steady increase in pledge units 4 years running. Ed thanked Beth Hospadaruk for her leadership of the budget campaign. These reported numbers do not include the Stone Soup effort, which Ed announced raised an additional \$90,000 from 151 gifts.

The success of these efforts means no staff layoffs, increasing Rev. Cassandra Hartley from 3/4 time to full time, and COLA raises for the staff. The drive did come in under budget, however, so several compromises had to be made. Rev. Lindasusan's position will remain empty after she departs this summer, the position of a Chalice Sparks Choir Director will not be filled, and a part time SGD role will remain vacant. Significantly, an Administrator will not be hired.

Ed walked the congregation through the Budget document, included in the meeting materials. He highlighted that Medical Insurance expenses have risen to where they are a mere \$453 less than the annual mortgage payment. With that, Ed requested that questions be sent to him via email, at [ed@uuaa.org](mailto:ed@uuaa.org).

Erik responded to a congregant's question regarding the health care costs, noting that, while UUAA takes advantage of group discounts negotiated by the UUA, we had staff members transition from external coverage to UUAA, which accounts for some of the increase.

#### **Suspension of Robert's Rules – President Erik Stalhandske**

Erik entertained a motion to suspend Robert's Rules and move into the Vision 20/50 activities.

**Moved:** Dixie Hibner

**Second:** Margie Teall

**Approved:** By voice vote

#### **Announcement of the Vote**

The result of the vote to become the sponsoring congregation for the ordination of Theresa Rohlck was announced. It passed 210 in favor, 2 against.

#### **Vision 20/50**

Rev. Manish introduced Co-Moderator of the UUA and Vision 20/50 consultant to UUAA, Elandria Williams, who then led the congregation in a number of visioning activities.

*Respectfully Submitted by Secretary Rick Witten*