

Keweenaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Annual Meeting

June 9, 2019

Dave Watkins, KUUF Board President, called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

Linda Rulison, Chair of Membership Committee, certified the quorum. KUUF has 85 registered members; 42 members are present with one Board member attending remotely.

Bill Fink will be the Parliamentarian for the meeting.

Minister Paul Mitchell lit the chalice.

Elen Maurer read a statement of Right Relations.

Dave provided handouts of last year's annual meeting minutes, financial statements, the proposed FY19-20 budget, and the meeting agenda.

Linda Belote, Frank Kohl and Barry Fink volunteered to review this (6/9/19) year's minutes.

No one requested any additions or changes to the agenda.

Minute approval from 2018: Jack Jobst and Bill Fink reviewed and approved the 2018 annual meeting minutes.

Slate of Nominees and Election:

The Nominating committee of Nanno Rose, Bill Leder, and Jenn Donovan presented the slate of nominees.

- David Watkins, President, for a one-year term
(His third year as a board member and second year as president)
- Horst Schmidt, Vice President, for a two-year term
(His second two-year term as vice president)
- Cindy Enderby, Treasurer, for a one-year term
(Her second year of a two-year term as Treasurer)
- Elen Maurer, Secretary, for a one-year term
(Her second year as a board member and first year as secretary)
- Lora Repp, at-large member, for a two-year term
(Her second two-year term as a board member)
- Jenn Donovan, at-large member, for a two-year term
(Her third two-year term as a board member)
- Miriam Pickens, at-large board member, for a two-year term
(She is joining the board as a new member)
- Joan Chadde, at-large board member, for a two-year term
(She is joining the board as a new member)

Dave opened the floor for any additional nominations. Bill Leder nominated May Amelia Shapton to serve as a youth trustee at-large. Dave clarified KUUF By-Laws regarding the allowable number of Board members.

Dave thanked Connie Sherry and Grace Parikh for their service on the Board.

Linda Rulison moved to close the nominations and approve the slate as presented; Bob Drake seconded. Vote: room responded with “aye” and waving “ballots”. None opposed. Motion carried.

Dave nominated John Johnson and Will Shapton to serve on next year’s nominating committee. Harriet King moved to accept the two nominees; Miriam Pickens seconded. Vote: room responded with “aye” and waving “ballots”. None opposed. Motion carried.

Finances:

Barry Fink reported that the result of the canvass came “close” to the \$80,000 goal, closing at \$77,1 “something”. (\$77,170)

The KUUF Board of Trustees recognized Paul’s work above and beyond the time and scope of a half-time minister by presenting him with a check for \$5,000. A round of applause followed.

Treasurer Cindy Enderby was unable to attend the meeting; Bill Leder presented the financial report and budget on her behalf. Bill introduced the Finance Committee and referenced KUUF By-Laws about committee assignments.

Financial Report:

KUUF 2019 income from all sources was \$70,213.

Expenses were \$60,819. At year’s end the unobligated funds were \$36,886. This does not include any pledges received this fiscal year for next year. Bill’s summary, KUUF is in “really good financial condition” with a “very strong cash position”.

The Reserve account stands at about \$71,000 with no debt.

The restricted Building Trust account stands at \$30,000.

The Emergency Loan account holds \$4,400.

The endowment with Superior Community Foundation stands at \$18,785. We could access the income from this account if we needed to.

There is \$1,528 in the Minister’s Discretionary Fund.

Members asked questions from the floor.

Q: Are we “ahead” in rent payment; we had been paying ahead, what is the status? A: Dave will investigate, and the Board will discuss.

Q: What is the difference between the community foundation and the c.f. foundation? A: There are two endowments. One is in the name of the Fellowship; the other is set up so that individual members can make contributions to the fund. Anybody can donate to the second fund.

Budget: KUUF received 43 pledges with the total amount coming in at 10% over last year. The graph of pledges shows its usual shape with three fewer pledges but more higher value pledges than last year.

The Finance Committee developed the draft budget in March and KUUF members had access to review it online or with provided hard copies. Bill Leder asked how many were already familiar with the budget and a small number of people raised their hands.

Bill reviewed the sections of the budget, explaining that the Finance Committee used the many Committees' requests to build that portion of the budget.

Bill explained the changes in the budget from last year; Our subscription to Faith Rocket was discontinued and the wage increases includes Paul's salary and professional expenses. Four "new ideas" were submitted and all were funded.

Bill explained how the Denominational dues are calculated. The Regional dues increased from \$24 per member to \$26. Bill reviewed the "fair share" calculations. UUA has changed how it is figured; now it's the same for all congregations no matter their size. Our intent is to be a fair share congregation and we are able to do that. Fair share dues are \$60 per member.

Bill answered questions from members:

Q: With the canvass falling slightly short, can we cover our expenses? A: Our canvass result covers 90% of our expenses. Some additional income arrives via cash in the basket and events like the Goods and Services Auction. The Budget also uses about \$4,000 from our unobligated revenue to balance the budget.

Q: A member asked for clarification about the Denominational dues calculations. Bill Fink explained that the change is that dues are now calculated at a flat rate. In the past the rate was figured at a percentage of the budget for large congregations and a flat rate for smaller congregations. This created a regressive situation in which we were paying far more per member than larger congregations. KUUF protested this system and by Board decision paid at the same percentage of our budget as was charged to the larger congregations. UUA changed the system and now we pay the same rate as larger congregations.

Jack Jobst moved to accept the budget as presented. Tony Zoars supported. Vote: room responded with "aye" and waving "ballots". None opposed. Motion carried.

Amlan thanked the Board and gave a positive message with praise for the Finance Committee. With the Finance Committee prioritizing long term thinking, "We're doing wonderful!"

Strategic Planning Task Force: Lora Repp gave a report on the work of the Strategic Planning Task Force and identified the members. Lora summarized the work developing KUUF mission and vision statements. Lora asked the congregation to share their ideas about improvements. She explained that the Board will see the recommendations during the June 30, 2020 meeting. Then the Task Force will bring the plan to the congregation at a separate congregational meeting later this summer. Lora assured members they would hear more soon.

Committee Reports:

Dave Watkins received reports from all committees. He declared that there a lot of people doing a lot of things! All Committee reports are posted on the KUUF website.

Bob Fiandt reported on the KUUF library. He reminded members about the library resource and reviewed the topics represented in the library. We have books about theology, UU materials,

publications written by our members and much more. The library catalog is available online. Bob asked for ideas and expansion possibilities. Bob thanked Jack Jobst for his help with newsletter articles and for publicizing the library.

Miriam Pickens reported on Hospitality. She will keep managing Hospitality and especially appreciates Miyoko's help and others who help regularly. Miriam also encouraged people to donate to public radio and TV. If their donation goes through KUUF we can underwrite programming and be recognized on the air.

Miriam also gave the Religious Education report. The upcoming Solstice Event will include live music, yoga, activities for all, and a pot-luck meal.

Miriam also reminded members about the Women's retreat in July and up-coming mug-painting events. Miriam gave out a page with reminders about dates of events.

Barry Fink gave the Worship Committee report written by Horst Schmidt. We will have fewer visiting ministers and encourage folks to come hear them. Members were invited to join the Worship Committee if they have an interest.

Linda Rulison gave the Caring Committee report: She expressed how wonderful it is to have the support of KUUF and asked that people let her know about needs in our congregation. She acknowledged that often members just help each other without involvement of the Caring Committee. Linda anticipates expanding how we do this work with help from Paul.

Horst Schmidt gave the Forum Committee report. He encouraged members to bring ideas for forum speakers in the future. Forums are planned and scheduled through November.

Shirley Galbraith and Sandra Loy provided a report from the Music Committee. They have found more congregational support and input since last year's congregational meeting. Most importantly there is a supportive environment for Sandra and Alex to do their jobs.

Respectfully submitted

Secretary Eleanore Maurer