

**Annual Congregational Meeting (in person and via Zoom) Bellingham
Unitarian Fellowship
May 19th, 2024**

Board Members Attending: Drew Betz- Secretary, Alex Gilman - President, Daria Haynes- Vice President, John Stewart (VZ) - Treasurer, Jim Reimer, Elizabeth Nyblade, Lin Skavdahl, Stephanie Sarver (VZ), Paul Beckel, (Ex-Officio).

VZ = Via Zoom

Board members excused - Lew Phinney.

Minutes by Drew Betz, Secretary

Quorum confirmation : The minimum number of 38 members required for quorum were signed in by 12:06. Members continued to sign in at the table on on-line. Non-members were also in attendance. The estimated attendance was 47 members in person and 17 via Zoom for a total of 64 members from whom ballots were received.

President Alex called the meeting to order at 12:06. He read the Land Acknowledgement.

Drew Betz assisted Alex with the Chalice lighting by reading a short passage.

Alex proposed meeting procedural changed to incorporate participation from Zoom members.

Grace Nyblade moved to accept the changes. John Jurceka seconded the motion. The motion passed with a hand vote.

2023 Annual Meeting Minutes were presented for approval.

Minutes were available on-line prior to the meeting and on paper for review at the meeting.

Rod Haynes moved to accept the minutes as presented. Mark Allyn seconded the motion.

No changes were proposed.

Motion passed.

Annual Report: President Alex gave an inspired report, first reflecting on his own journey within the community and then moving to the congregation's changes within the last year and those to come. Changes in staff have and will continue to be significant.

Our new administrator, Michelle Fox, receives congratulations for settling in and making the job her own. Our longtime Music Director, Kevin Allen-Schmid, and our hard working Director of Lifelong Learning Director, Genia Allen-Schmid, are retiring in June. Hiring committees are in place for both positions that will look different in the coming year as the budget is recalibrated to what our fiscal means are going forward.

Alex addressed the achievements of the Social and Environmental Justice Committee and the newly re-energized Interweave Committee.

He celebrated the early finish of the successful Stewardship Campaign and thanked Rick Steele for his steady leadership and acknowledged his retirement from the Stewardship Team.

He urged us to have UU values remain our core: love, diversity and inclusion.

Board of Trustees Election:

Annie Sorich, Nominating Committee Chair, presented the slate of Nominees and talked about the challenges the committee has faced in recruiting candidates. She introduced the three candidates via the statements that were shared prior to the meeting. She also noted that there was still an open spot on the board.

The slate of nominees included:

Jan Cavitt
Claire Lending
Gayle Tilles

Judy Kasper moved to accept the slate as presented, Joan Mackey seconded the motion. Motion passed to accept the slate.

Annie then presented the **Slate for the Nominating committee**. She introduced the newest nominee, Steffany Raynes.

New Member: Steffany Raynes
Continuing members: Annie Sorich, David Curley, Rod Haynes
Annie also noted that there is an open slot on the Nominating Committee.

Barbara Gilday moved to accept the slate as presented. Lawrence Allen seconded the motion. The slate was accepted.

2024-25 Operating Budget Presentation

After a switch technology glitch, Treasurer John Stewart's recorded presentation of the budget was shown. The budget was sent electronically to the membership prior to the meeting and paper copies were available.

Sky Hedman moved to approve the budget as presented. Steffany Raynes seconded the motion.

There was a brief discussion about the cost of new fees for the External Defibrillator. Lawrence Allen was concerned that those one time costs could be covered. Paul replied that there is room for essential costs. Steffany wanted to know where the funds would come from. Sky, Assistant Treasurer and Financial Oversight Committee member reminded the group that the budget is always an estimate and the congregation uses what it has for funds, There are always adjustments as the year goes on. It is good to know about the cost needs.

The slates of nominees and the budget are all voted on by ballot.

Alex thanked all the Leadership, the Board and the Nominating Committee and adjourned the meeting at 1:02 pm.

Ballot Results from May 19, 2024 Meeting, Certified by Drew Betz, Secretary on May 20, 2024

- 1. Proposed Procedural Changes - Approved**
- 2. May 21, 2023 Congregational Minutes - Approved**
- 3. Board of Trustees - Approved (All)**
Jan Cavitt
Claire Lending
Gayle Tilles
- 4. Nominating Committee - Approved (All)**
Annie Sorich
David Curley
Rod Haynes
Steffany Raynes
- 5. 2024-25 Annual Budget - Approved**