

**Annual Congregational Meeting (in person and Zoom)**  
**Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship**  
**May 18, 2025**  
**Provisionally approved by the Board of Trustees May 22, 2025**

**Board Members Attending:** Lin Skavdahl – President, Stephanie Sarver-Vice President, Claire Lending – Secretary, John Stewart – Treasurer, Jim Reimer, Beth Nyblade, Gayle Tilles, Tom Nicholas, Natalie Johnson, Paul Beckel (Ex-Officio)

Minutes by Claire Lending, Secretary

**Annual Meeting**  
Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship  
May 18, 2025

- 1. Lin Skavdahl called the meeting to order at 12:14**
- 2. Land Acknowledgement: Constance Ohana**
- 3. Chalice Lighting: Steffany Raynes**
- 4. Confirmation of Quorum:** The minimum number of 39 members required for quorum was established. The estimated member attendance is 79 members in person and 16 members via Zoom for a total of 85. **Lin Skavdahl declared a quorum.**
- 5. Proposed Procedures:**

Lin proposed meeting procedural change to incorporate participation from Zoom members.  
[full text of the motion is appended]

**Constance Ohana moved to accept the changes. Rina Jurceka seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion passed.**
- 6. Approval of the 2024-25 Congregational Meeting Minutes**

Minutes were available online prior to the meeting with a few additional copies available at the meeting.

**Patricia Conover moved to accept the minutes as presented. Ken Gass seconded the motion.** No changes were proposed.  
**Voting is after the meeting on paper ballots for attendees or electronic ballots for Zoom attendees.**
- 7. President's Annual Report: Lin Skavdahl [full text appended]**

Lin presented an inspiring talk highlighting the many accomplishments of the 2024/2025 year including our new part time RE director Liz and the new choir director Ben. Lin reflected the sadness in the congregation's goodbye to Paul. She invited all to Paul's retirement celebration June 21.

Lin also hopes all will welcome our new Interim Minister who will be voted on by the board soon. She also mentioned the congregation will be forming and voting on a search committee in 2026 for the new settled minister whose term will begin in 2027.

#### **8. Election of Board Trustees** terms beginning July 1, 2025

Steffany Raynes, Nominating Committee member, presented the slate of Nominees. She introduced the five candidates.

The slate of nominees includes:

3 Year Terms: Ahwren Ayers, Patricia Conover, Natalie Johnson

2 Year Term: Tom Nicholas

1 Year Term: Jim Shaver

**David Shirey moved to accept the slate as presented. Rory McLeod seconded the motion.** Voting is after the meeting on paper ballots for attendees or electronic ballots for Zoom attendees.

#### **9. Election of Nominating Committee** (all 1-year terms to begin July 1, 2025)

Steffany Raynes presented the slate of Nominees for nominating committee. She introduced the newest nominee Kathryn Allen.

The full slate of nominees are Kathryn Allen, Rod Haynes, Steffany Raynes, and Annie Sorich,

**Bonnie Phinney moved to accept the slate as presented. Ann Lackland seconded the motion. Voting is after the meeting on paper ballots for attendees or electronic ballots for Zoom attendees.**

#### **10. Presentation of the 2025-26 Budget**

John Stewart presented the budget in a clear concise manner. The budget was sent electronically to the membership prior to the meeting and paper copies were available.

Various questions were asked and answered.

**Jeff Copeland moved to approve the budget as presented. Robin Stewart seconded the motion. Voting is after the meeting on paper ballots for attendees or electronic ballots for Zoom attendees.**

## 11. Closing words

Lin Skavdahl read closing words.

**All voting is done by paper ballot for in person attendees and electronic for Zoom attendees.**

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### Ballot results

1. **Proposed Procedural Changes- Approved**
2. **May 19, 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes-Approved**
3. **Board of Trustees-Approved (All)**

**3 Year Terms:**

**Ahwren Ayers**

**Patricia Conover**

**Natalie Johnson**

**2 Year Term:**

**Tom Nicholas**

**1 Year Term:**

**Jim Shaver**

4. **2025-2026 Annual Budget-Approved**

### Attachments:

- Proposed meeting procedural changes (Congregational Meeting Slides)
- Minutes from May 19, 2024 Annual Congregational Meeting (without attachments)
- President's Annual Report
- Proposed Budget for 2025/2026