

First Unitarian Universalist Society of Exeter



164th Annual Meeting of FUUSE 2019

Our mission

At FUUSE we seek to build a caring, inclusive community where we can ground ourselves spiritually, pursue justice in the larger society, and work to heal the natural world.

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Acronyms

BOT- Board of Trustees

DRE – Director of Religious Education

FUUSE – First Unitarian Universalist Society of Exeter

RE – Religious Education

UU – Unitarian Universalism

First Unitarian Universalist Society of Exeter

AGENDA
(10:45 AM)

Opening Words – Rev. Kendra Ford

Call to Order - Frank Heffron, Moderator

(Minutes of today's meeting will be taken by Jim Webber and Jane Oldfield-Spearman)

Proxy Agent – Jonathan Winsor

Confirmation of Quorum – Jane Oldfield-Spearman

Review and Approval of Minutes of the Annual Meeting, June 10, 2018

Review and Approval of Minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting, January 13, 2019

New Business

- Vote of the FY19 Budget (July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020)
- Update from the Renovation Committee and Kendra Ford on plans for the renovation and how we will gather during construction.
- Vote on the Resolution on Use of Endowment Fund as Bridge Loan for Construction:

Resolution: The Congregation of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Exeter authorizes the Treasurer to transfer up to \$100,000 from the Endowment Fund to the Capital Campaign Fund. Such transfer(s) shall be made as needed to serve as a bridge loan during the renovation project construction. The loan from the Endowment Fund shall be repaid by monies received as the FUUSE community honors their pledges to the Capital Campaign. This action is recommended by the Board of Trustees.

- Vote for candidates for Officers and Standing Committees

Adjournment

First Unitarian Universalist Society of Exeter

MINUTES, 163rd ANNUAL MEETING, June 10, 2018

Called to Order by Moderator, Frank Heffron, at 11:00 a.m.

Confirmation of a Quorum was established by Jane Oldfield-Spearman with 63 members present with 40 required for a quorum.

Proxy Voting. Jonathan Winsor was introduced as the Proxy Voting Agent and reported that four proxy votes had been received.

Opening Words were presented by Rev. Kendra Ford. Kendra emphasized that FUUSE is an independent organization which relies on its members and thanked all who were in attendance. She recognized that difficult decisions need to be made at FUUSE and called on all of us to be respectful of the differences of opinion expressed. She reminded us that we are all in this together and all love this community. Kendra asked us to speak from our own experiences and we must act together to solve difficult problems facing FUUSE.

Acceptance of the June 4, 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes. Drew Sunstein moved that the 2017 Annual Meeting minutes be approved. The motion was seconded and approved by a voice vote.

Treasurer's Report and Presentation of the Fiscal Year 2019 (July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019) Budget for Approval.

Note: The minister and staff were asked to leave the meeting during the discussion of the proposed budget for FY-19.

Treasurer Jim Breeling summarized important aspects of the FY-19 Budget, reminding the congregants that figures supplied were a projection to June 30, 2018, the end of this fiscal year. Jim noted the following:

- To date 123 households have pledged for FY-19 down from 125 for FY-18, with \$203,000 pledged so far against our goal of \$225,000. Last fiscal year \$211,500 was pledged.
- As part of the budget planning cycle, budget requests would have increased this year's budget by about \$80,000 - obviously an unattainable goal at this time. During the budget planning sessions, a "zero scenario" was proposed for the Board of Trustees as a working assumption in which our income for FY-19 would be the same as FY-18. As the figures show this year fell about \$8,500 short of last year's: \$203,000 vs. \$211,500. Therefore cuts to the "zero scenario" budget had to be made before the FY-19 budget could be presented to the Society.
- Salaries were preserved but professional expenses were cut for the Minister and DRE.
- No new positions; no pay raises (4% raises were recommended by the UUA); no changes in work hours; elimination of all District and National UUA dues; elimination of payments made for future expenses; and reduction in Facilities Maintenance and Repairs.
- The expected FY-19 deficit of \$9,300 is within the acceptable 5% level.

Our endowment has now exceeded \$400,000 and if legacy giving continues it could reach \$700,000 to \$800,00 within five years. At this level, the endowment could be used to help pay operating expenses. Also, Jim confirmed that the real estate owned by FUUSE is valued at about \$700,000 and we have pledged almost \$500,000 for our church building renovations in the Capital Campaign that was held this winter; \$200,000 has already been received. These are all signs of a committed Society.

Below are short summaries of comments and questions from FUUSE congregants during the discussion of this motion.

Drew Sunstein wondered what the possible reasons were for the decrease in the number of pledging households over about the last decade. He asked if contributions to the Capital Campaign could have depressed the Annual Fund pledges. In reply, Jim Breeling stated that the Capital Campaign did not seem to affect giving to the Annual Fund. In fact, many of those giving to the Annual Fund increased their donations.

As to the decreasing number of pledging households, Jim noted that recent polls indicate that the fastest growing religious denomination in America is “unaffiliated”; that is, fewer people are attending churches throughout the USA. Also, family circumstances may have changed or people have moved away. Our ministries (worship, religious education, etc) need to meet the needs of congregants, and this goal is always an ongoing effort.

Chris Ellis made a heartfelt plea that members find some way to pay the UUA dues, suggesting congregants view paying these dues (and other needs) as a personal obligation.

Marylee Welling also made a plea to pay national dues. She cited the *UU World* magazine and consultations with UUA experts as reasons to honor our pledge of dues.

Jim explained that the BoT continually struggles with setting budget priorities and the Board welcomes your input in setting these priorities. Drew noted that special fund-raising activities have been successful in the past for things such as the chimney repair drive and that the Board should consider holding such a fundraiser later in the year for UUA dues.

Skip Berrien thanked those who conducted the several special fund-raising projects that were so successful this church year.

A motion was made to accept the budget as presented, seconded, and carried by voice vote.

FUUSE Nominating Committee Report to the 163rd Annual Meeting (Denise Short)

On behalf of the Nominating Committee and the FUUSE community, Denise thanked those who were leaving positions on the Board of Trustees and Standing Committees:

Board of Trustees: Kristin O’Gorman, John Giglio

Standing Committees.

- Finance: Miranda Lamb
- Nominating: Denise Short
- Personnel: Janet Szarmach, Marilyn Liotta, and Marylee Welling
- Property: Doug Stephens

- Program Council: Gwen Kenney, Chair

The nominating Committee Slate of Nominees for terms beginning July 1, 2018 is:

Board of Trustees: Jim Webber, Recording Secretary; Holley Daschbach, member at large, Cliff Sinnott, member at large, and Jim Breeling, Treasurer (extending his term for One year).

Note: Jane Oldfield-Spearman who has agreed to serve as the Chair of the Board of Trustees for another year.

Finance Committee: Doug Stephens, Chair; Dan Garvey

Nominating Committee: Kristin O’Gorman, Skip Berrien

Personnel Committee: Sean Tierney, Bruce Menin

Program Council: Dawn Huebner, Chair

Property Committee: Tom Palma

Stewardship Committee: Wayne Loosigian

A motion to accept this slate was made, seconded and carried with a voice vote.

Renovations Committee Report (Kristin O’Gorman)

An architect has been selected by the Renovations Committee from a pool of three and the plan is to present a contract with this firm for the Board to review and authorize at the June 13 Board meeting..The next step will be to choose a building contractor to conduct the renovations.

Subgroups of the Renovation Committee are being formed to address Contractor Search, Communications, Construction Oversight, and Aesthetics. Members who would like to join the Renovation Committee are encouraged to contact Debbie Merrick. The goal is to begin construction in May, 2019. The congregation will be updated on progress of the renovation process via periodic meetings, monthly email communications and on the FUUSE website.

Adjournment was at 12:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Giglio
Jane Oldfield-Spearman

First Unitarian Universalist Society of Exeter

Special Congregational Meeting Held on January 13, 2019 in the Sanctuary

Purpose: To consider proceeding with the Building Renovation Plan

Moderator: Stephanie Marshall (Acting)

The moderator called the meeting to order at 10:40 AM and asked if there was any objections to her serving as acting moderator. There were no objections. A count was taken to ensure a quorum of at least 40 church members were present. There were 68 signed members in attendance. The moderator explained there was only one issue to be addressed, proceeding with the Building Renovation Plan.

She asked for a motion to be considered.

Board member Janet Stephens rose to make the motion below.

“Will the Congregation of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Exeter approve proceeding with the renovation plan, subject to modification based on construction bids and available funds from the Building Renovation Capital Campaign? The plan is recommended by the Renovations Committee, has been made available for input and discussion by the Congregation, and approved by the Board of Trustees.”

The motion was seconded by numerous members in the Sanctuary.

The moderator restated the motion and asked for discussion. There was no discussion.

A voice vote was taken of the members present. **There was unanimous approval.**

Board member, Jonathan Winsor reported on the 10 proxy votes received, 9 for the motion, one against.

Thus, the motion was passed by all but one proxy voter.

At this point, Debbie Merrick of the Renovation Committee danced a jig on stage and the audience cheered.

The moderator asked for a motion to adjourn, it was so moved and seconded.

The Special meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am

Respectfully submitted by Jim Webber, Recording Secretary of the Board of Trustees

Nominating Committee Report for the Annual Meeting:

The Nominating Committee is grateful to the following outgoing committee members for their service on these committees upon which we rely for the spiritual, physical and financial functioning of our community. To them **we extend our warmest thanks.**

Board of Trustees: Jane Oldfield-Spearman, Jim Breeling, Jonathan Winsor, Roy Jones

Nominating: John Giglio, Anthony Tufts

Personnel: Roy Jones

Stewardship: Stephanie Marshall

The Nominating Committee Slate of Nominees with terms starting in July, 1, 2019:

The Nominating Committee respectfully submits the following individuals to be voted on:

Board of Trustees: Cliff Sinnott – Board Chair
Dawn Huebner – Incoming Chair
Dan Garvey – Treasurer
Bert Lamb - Member at Large

Personnel: Janet Stephens

Stewardship: Jim Breeling
Jim Ellis
Skip Berrien

Property: Steve Kenney
Amy Farnham
Jim Allen