

## **Minutes of the Annual Meeting Unitarian Society of Germantown May 16, 2021**

### **Welcome**

Board president Andrea Barsevick welcomed all to the 2021 Annual Meeting. She opened the meeting with instructions regarding the mechanics of the meeting being conducted virtually on Zoom.

### **Election of Annual Meeting Chair**

Tom Ott was nominated, seconded, and voted as meeting chair.

### **Approval of Minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting**

The minutes of the 2020 annual meeting were approved by those in attendance.

### **Board President's Report**

Andrea provided a report summarizing the Board's mission, goals, and accomplishments for the year. Goals for the past year were 1) maintain a firm financial footing for USG despite the stresses of the global pandemic, 2) address financial hardships within our congregation and our local community, and 3) provide leadership for the study of the UUA Report, "Widening the Circle of Concern," and engage in a process of taking action to dismantle racism and other oppressions within our USG community. Significant accomplishments included launching a COVID Financial Relief Fund to support members of our Church community as well as local community organizations that support people in financial distress. By appealing to our church community and directing funds from the USG Sullivan Assistance Fund, we raised \$92,000 and distributed it to individuals and community organizations to alleviate suffering due to the pandemic. Other accomplishment included a commitment to provide leadership for and actively participate in the study of the UUA Report, Widening the Circle of Concern, and a thorough review & revision of the financial policies of USG to ensure that we are on a strong financial footing to live out mission. The goals for 2021-2022: 1) plan for the "future of worship" and the "new normal" for carrying out our mission as pandemic restrictions are lifted, 2) renew the Board commitment to making changes in our USG systems and processes based on our study of the UUA Report, Widening the Circle of Concern, and 3) continue our review of financial policies to ensure that USG is on a firm financial footing to live out our mission

### **Minister's Report**

Reverend Kent Matthies opened his report by recognizing that this is the 156th year in the life of the USG congregation, during which the last 15 months services have been conducted virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He described that shut down conditions have necessitated a shift to video production by staff and volunteers. Members have shown compassion and concern by reaching out to others as facilitated by the caring and welcoming teams. USG remained committed to racial justice, standing strong with POWER and the ongoing Black Lives Matter vigils. The COVID Task Force and others worked hard to develop policies taking into account CDC, state, city, and UUA guidance. A Moving Ahead Steering Committee

was formed to help move the congregation forward with multiplatform services and other activities as we are able to reopen the building and grounds.

### **Director of Spiritual Development Report**

Ryan Hurd reported how programs moved forward virtually during the challenging year creating a new “radical inclusivity.” CSD successfully adapted to Zoom with a few activities conducted outdoors at USG. ASD activities included Elderhood meetings that provided weekly comradery and support, virtual mindfulness programs, Death Café, and new offering of Images of the Divine. The ASD and CSD Committees were strong, however about half of the families stopped participating during the shutdown. He referred to his annual report for more details.

### **Presentation of the 2021-2022 Budget**

Eric Foster presented the 2021-2022 budget. He gave thanks to Celeste Lamb who successfully obtained a second Paycheck Protection Program loan that will likely become a grant. He described the budget priorities and guidelines set forth by the Board that included paying full UUA dues, fair compensation and benefits for staff, a second year for intern Ms. Latifah Griffin-Rogers, investments in technology for multiplatform services, and two new part-time positions.

### **Congregational Awards**

Three Congregational awards were presented to 1) Jenn Lieby, 2) Jessica Stanforth, and 3) Mary Kalyna. Three Lifetime Achievement Awards were presented to 1) Howard Silver, 2) Linda Brunn, and 3) Dennis Brunn.

### **Election of 2021-2022 Board and Nominating Committee Members**

The candidates for Board were presented: Amy Birge-Caracappa and Sharon Mafuru for three year terms and Andrea Barsevick for a one year term. The candidates for Nominating Committee were presented: Tony Heyl and Elaine Hill. Because of the pandemic voting was to be conducted on-line.

Rev. Matthies gave closing words and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Devery Howerton