

FirstU AGM Minutes – May 5, 2024

A. CALL TO ORDER – Brent Nicolle – Started at 12:32PM

- Land Acknowledgement
- Lighting of Chalice and Opening Reading

B. RECOGNITION OF LIFE EVENTS – Rev. Eric Meter

C. PRELIMINARY MOTIONS

- Report of the Scrutineer – Carmen Contreras
 - Quorum = 39 People, 75 in attendance including proxies (>75)
- **Motion to Approve this Agenda**
(*Moved by Brent Nicolle; seconded by Mary Ella Keblusek*), passed

D. OPENING REMARKS

- President's Remarks – Brent Nicolle
 - Tough job. Learned a lot
 - Awards: Maury for Herculean CUC Symposium and CUC AGM organization
 - Lisa : Coordinating CanUUdle (youth) and being sounding board for Brent
 - Guy and all others on governance committee
 - Alison Harvey: Brent's spouse and all other spouses who put up with preoccupation with FirstU activities
- Minister's Remarks – Rev. Eric Meter
 - Thank Jen B. for preparing recognition of life events
 - Dedication to children's service coming up soon
 - Rev. Eric wasn't approved to be the Armed Forces representative, that he applied for
 - Eric's Formal evaluation is nearly complete.
 - Will begin FirstU services at Unitarian House in near future
 - More and more young ones and their families attending
 - Eric's wife has taken a job in Boston. This will necessitate Eric periodically travelling to Boston.

E. SECRETARY'S REPORT – Carl Sonnen

- Motion to Adopt Minutes of the Fall Congregational Meeting:
BE IT RESOLVED that the Congregation adopt the attached Minutes of the Fall Congregational Meeting of October 29th, 2023
(*Moved by Carl Sonnen; seconded by Brent Nicolle*). passed
- Motion to Adopt Minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting of December 3rd:
BE IT RESOLVED that the Congregation adopt the attached Minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting of December 3rd, 2023
(*Moved by Carl Sonnen; seconded by Brent Nicolle*). passed
- Motion to Approve the recent Acts of the Board
BE IT RESOLVED that the Congregation approve the attached Acts of the Board
(*Moved by Carl Sonnen; seconded by Brent Nicolle*). Passed

F. TREASURER'S REPORT – Phil Nagy

- Recognition of Bequests last year –
 - -Leslie Baird
 - -the estate of Margot Clarke
- Summary of 2023 Audited Financial Statements
 - Ran a deficit of > \$100k, but still much less than expected. Rentals, bequests and others provided greater revenue and committee costs not fully used and reduction in HR
 - Investments made over last year had a terrific recovery
 - Details:
 - Other Contributions up significantly
 - Ajashki very successful project in raising their own self-supporting funds
 - Member donations for operations renewal are up – include a better sound system
 - Phil explained all the account purposes including Legacy account and transfer to balance our accounts at year-end.
 - Better off about \$95k in our deficit than last year

- Motion to Accept the 2023 Audited Financial Statements

BE IT RESOLVED that the Members accept the Audited Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending December 31st, 2023, subject to clarification in Note 1 regarding Unitarian House lease extension.

(Moved by Phil Nagy; seconded by Carmen Contreras), Passed

- Motion to (re)appoint Auditor

BE IT RESOLVED that the Members appoint the firm of Kelly Huibers McNeely (KHM) to audit the accounts of the Congregation for the fiscal year 2024.

(Moved by Phil Nagy, Seconded by Carl Sonnen), passed

- comment by Bill V. I. : Kudos to Phil, Michelle and finance committee for finding a new audit company at a much improved cost and an improved format that displays more information.
- Introduction of Long-Term Financial Model (LTFM)
 - Initiated by Randy and others on finance committee.
 - not part of AGM package, but displayed in real-time on the projector
 - Projections of revenue until 2033 (including eventual revenue from Theia property)
 - Used a report visual that dynamically projects what the different scenarios are based on potential revenue vs expenses over about a decade.
 - Finance committee is definitely looking at the long term future to be proactively prepared for many years to come.
 - Brent and Chuck asked Phil to demo a different return on investments and a zero revenue stream from new building for review.

G. TRIVIA BREAK – Mary Ella K.

H. ACCEPTANCE OF ANNUAL REPORT

I. LAY CHAPLAINCY REPORT – Sharmila Khare (Ottawa Lay Chaplaincy Committee Chair)

- Motion to (re)appoint Lay Chaplains:
- Help out with community events that ministers would never have time for. Very important as an outreach vehicle
- Thank Bob A., Lisa B. and Guy B. for all the caring outreach and representation they do on behalf of our congregation.

WHEREAS the Congregation must confirm, annually, the appointment of current lay chaplains;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Congregation reappoint Lisa Boulay and Guy Belleperche to serve as lay chaplains.

(Moved by Sharmila Khare; seconded by Bob Armstrong). passed

J. REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE – Mike Fletcher (Nominations Chair)

- Election of Directors—full slate including new directors Chuck and Nancy was unanimously approved.
 - the following two new directors were elected:
 - • Chuck Shields to the first year of a first 3-year term.
 - • Nancy Cloutier to the first year of a first 3-year term.
 - As a result, the current directors are:

Director	First elected	Term status
Brent Nicolle	2018	Ex officio (Past president)
Carl Sonnen	2019	Starting year 3 of second 3-year term
Amy Bérubé	2022	Starting year 3 of first 3-year term
Phil Nagy	2022	Starting year 3 of first 3-year term
Mary Ella Keblusek	2022	Starting year 3 of first 3-year term
Carmen Contreras	2023	Starting year 2 of first 3-year term
Guy Belleperche	2023	Starting year 2 of first 3-year term
Chuck Shields	2024	Starting year 1 of first 3-year term
Nancy Cloutier	2024	Starting year 1 of first 3-year term

- Annual Election/Re-election of Officers of the Board, for a one year term. Passed.
 - President – Chuck Shields
 - VP – Mary Ella Keblusek
 - Treasurer – Phil Nagy
 - Secretary – Carl Sonnen

K. TRANSITION TO NEW BOARD – Chuck Shields taking over as new chair and President.

- Speeches of thanksgiving to Brent

L. OTHER BUSINESS

- Mike Lloyd indicated that CUC and Catholic church have already repudiated the doctrine, but it's still part of Canadian law.
- It is a legal precedent that turned the western hemisphere where none of the living inhabitants were valued or accepted and where European monarchs tried to exhort their influence world-wide
- What are the recommended CUC steps that need to be enacted by our own congregation. Read and learn
- **Resolution on Repudiation of Doctrine of Discovery.**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa joins with the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) in formally supporting the repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery in Canadian law and society;

AND THAT the Congregation follows the recommended steps in the CUC's 2023 Action Plan for member congregations.

(Moved by Mike Lloyd, Seconded by Lisa Sharp), 4 abstentions, 2 opposed. Passed

M. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Update on Cultivating Compassionate Community (CCC) - Lisa: On behalf of Nina Strang
- New focus for next 2 years. Deepen our understanding of marginalized groups, in particular 2SLGBTQ+ and mental health communities.
- We need volunteers to do upcoming tasks for extension of CCC in our congregation and our community
- Get involved in upcoming FirstU events dealing with 2SLGBTQ+ and mental health community
- Email or approach Jane, Nina or Lisa with ideas to help in CCC or add to our incredible ideas box created by Laurie Foster-Mcleod
- Update on Campus Development
 - Terry Kimmel said re-zoning request has been sent to city and there are lots of questions which will be sent back to us in June and where we stand on Campus planning.
 - Many legal agreements are being put in place both for the OAHS and Theia building now
 - Shovels could begin as soon as a year from now.
 - Looking at geothermal as sustainable energy source
 - General Questions:
 - Will LRT delay impact start of construction?
 - Residents are very concerned about all the construction vehicles which will greatly inconvenience and disturb OH residents. Strong desire to keep Kristy's traffic special road open indefinitely.
- Other

N. DJOURNMENT OF MEETING