UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF ASHEVILLE
MINUTES OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
May 5, 2020 - VIA ZOOM

PRESENT: Louise Anderson, Michael Beech, Cecil Bennett, Vice-President, Nora Carpenter, Clyde Hardin, Judy Harper, Clerk, James "Buck" Schall, Mariah Wright, Ryan Williams, President; Rev. Mark Ward, ex-officio.

GUESTS: Greg Gregory, Atty-at-Law and Parliamentarian
Linda Topp, Director of Administration

OPENING: The meeting was called to order at 6:15 by Ryan, who shared an opening reading, and Nora lit a chalice.

WHAT'S HAPPENING: Mark went over the highlights of his monthly report to the board. September 13, which is the Sunday when we would normally resume two services, has been set as the earliest that we would be open again for on-site congregational worship. Due to the efforts of our Director of Administration Linda Topp and our bookkeeper Christine Magnarella-Ray, we have received our Federal loan through the SBA Payroll Protection Program. RE programming continues on-line. The bi-weekly parent check-in every two weeks will be cancelled if more parents do not participate; Nora pointed out, as a parent, that a change in the meeting time might be helpful. With regard to our Social Justice programs, our anti-racism group is still meeting, and we are working with the NC UU Initiative Forward Together to organize a postcard writing campaign on behalf of our Reclaim Our Vote campaign; 20 members have been recruited to participate in this get-out-the-vote campaign. Pastoral issues continue to be addressed through the efforts of RE staff, Connections Coordinator Vinnie Zachritz and our pastoral visitors. At next Sunday's on-line worship service, we will be officially welcoming 20 new members.

THANK YOUS: Annual budget drive thank you calls from the board continue to be made as pledges come in. Some board members are further along in this task than others, so we decided that some board members will delegate their calls to those with more time to do this task.

MINUTES: The April minutes were moved and approved without corrections.

ANNUAL MEETING DISCUSSION: Congregational member Greg Gregory advised us on the legal particulars of holding an annual meeting through electronic balloting since we cannot actually have a meeting. Linda Topp was on hand for the discussion, as the ballot preparations and emailing will be handled by her and Tish in the church office.

Greg assured us that we can do everything we have to do - election of officers, adoption of a budget, and a by-laws change - entirely off-site by electronic balloting. (The ten members of our congregation who do not have a computer will receive information and ballots in the mail.) In addition to information and the ballot itself, contact information for Mark, Ryan and Linda will be included to allow for clarification/discussion if congregation members have questions. **A motion for holding the annual meeting by means of electronic balloting was made, seconded and approved unanimously.**

Greg also brought to our attention that a by-laws change requires at least a 30-day notification before voting, so a balloting deadline of June 15 was proposed, the balloting deadline effectively becoming the new date of the annual meeting, in order to allow Linda adequate time for preparations. **A motion to change the date of the annual meeting from June 7 to June 15 was made, seconded and approved unanimously.**

Last year's Annual Meeting agenda will be used as a guide for this year. With respect to the wording of the proposed by-laws change, which would allow members of the Leadership Development Committee to serve two terms, where previously they were restricted to one term: **A motion to allow Linda and Ryan to collaborate on the exact wording of the by-laws change which will be on the ballot, along with any explanation of the change, was made, seconded and passed unanimously.**

Ballots will be counted by the office, with help from Judy or Ryan if necessary. The problem of validating emails for the purpose of counting votes was discussed. Linda explained that all electronic ballots are attached to emails so we can always verify. Additionally, we have previously dealt with the problem of proxy votes from households with more than one voting member who share an email address.

The matter of a quorum was also discussed, as our by-laws require 10% of voting members for a quorum. Linda assured the board that for past annual meetings, we have already had a quorum via proxy ballots before the meeting even took place, so this is expected to be a nonissue.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS: The June and July board meeting dates were discussed. New board officers are usually elected on-site immediately after the annual meeting has been adjourned. The board decided to go ahead with the June 2 board meeting as an end-of-year review, at which no business requiring a vote will be conducted, and new board officers will be elected at the July meeting of the new 2020-21 board.

SAFETY TEAM: Michael requested that concerns of the Safety Team be addressed at the next Board meeting, particularly the issue of defibrillators.

END OF YEAR REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Deferred to June board meeting.

DEPARTING BOARD MEMBERS – Thanks and gratitude: Deferred to June board meeting.

CLOSING: Ryan shared a closing reading, and the chalice was extinguished.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Minutes submitted by Judy Harper, Clerk

NEXT BOARD COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday, May 26, 2020

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Tuesday, June 2, 2020

JUNE BOARD TASKS: OPENING READING - Judy BLOG - Ryan