

First Unitarian Church of Providence
Annual and Financial Meeting
Sunday June 3, 2018
Minutes

Attendance and Voter Check In

Voting members checked in with the Clerk. Ninety-three voting members attended the meeting.

Call to Order

President Jay Glasson called the Annual Meeting of the First Unitarian Church of Providence to order at 12:13 P.M.

Unison Reading

The Meeting Covenant was read in unison by attendees.

Approval of Minutes

Voting members approved the minutes from last year's Annual Meeting on 6/4/17.

Election of Officers and Other Elected Positions for 2017-2018

Marilyn Eanet, Chair of the Nominating Committee, submitted the following slate of candidates for elected positions for 2018-2019:

President	John Simmonds
President-Elect	Cheryl Bartholomew
Past-President	Jay Glasson
Clerk	Claire Rosenbaum
Treasurer	David House
Assistant Treasurer	Roberta Groch
Spiritual Development	Cynthia Roberts
Stewardship Committee	Tiffany Reed
Strategic Planning	Caroline Mailloux
Nominating Committee	Ann Boyd
	Merritt Meyer
	Kelley Smith
Deacons	Beth Anterni, 1 year
	Jim Barfoot, 3 years
	Joe Fisler, 2 years
	Peter Gray, 1 year
	Katy Killilea, 3 years
	Judie Knilans, 3 years
	Dave Lewis, 1 year
	Max Pounder, 2 years
	Meghan Smith, 2 years

Voting members unanimously approved the slate of candidates.

Annual Drive Acknowledgement

President Jay Glasson thanked all the volunteers who worked on the Annual Drive. He noted that the drive raised funds not only for existing expenses, but for aspirational projects. This change represents a cultural shift and points to a new path for future fundraising.

Budget Proposal for 2018-2019

Treasurer Graham Nye reviewed the proposed budget. He noted that it is a balanced budget that provides increases in salary to staff, full UUA funding, and funding for next years Love Beyond Belief program. He noted that there were increased health care costs and that we had shortfalls on funding capital repairs He stressed that we need to improve on funding capital repairs so that future improvements do not Capital Campaigns.. During a period of discussion, David House clarified that the Love Beyond Belief program was funded using excess funds from previous years budgeting of health care. Liz clarified that staff salaries were increased to bring staff up to the UUA mid-point guidelines, or if staff was at or above these guidelines, they were given a 2% cost of living increase. The Minister's salary was not increased. It was noted that improvements to the sound system and recycling initiatives were not funded. The budget was approved.

Proposals; Membership in Mobile Loaves R.I; Membership in R.I. State Council of Churches; Membership in Interfaith Power and Light

Jay Glasson provided an overview of each of the three organizations in question. In each case First UU would be joining as a Congregation. Following a period of discussion, the Congregation voted unanimously to join all three organizations.

Proposed Bylaw Changes

Jay Glasson reviewed the proposed Bylaw change to alter the Deacons term from 5 years to 3 years. The change, which required a two thirds majority, was approved.

Jay Glasson and John Simmonds reviewed the proposed Bylaw change that would require members to make a pledge, to be paid in part or in full, in order to be able to vote. The presentation was followed by an extended discussion and debate. The proposed change which, required a two thirds majority was approved.

300 Committee

Jay Glasson reminded the Congregation of the upcoming anniversary of the Congregation's founding and that additionally it would coincide with the annual GA convention being held in Providence. He announced that x would chair the planning committee, and asked for volunteers to support the planning and events to honor the occasion.

Capital Campaign Discussion

David House provided an overview of the Capital Campaign and on-going work. He informed the Congregation of the good news that work on the Church building was proceeding well, so well that it

will be complete earlier than expected. Because of this he has asked that, if possible, pledged giving be accelerated to cover bills that will be due earlier than originally anticipated.

President's Report

Jay Glasson recounted the many accomplishments of the last year including settling a new Minister, beginning restoration work on the Church and preparing to become a Sanctuary Church. He followed by outlining challenges including the need to shift the Prudential Committee's work from administration to governance and continuing fundraising to support renovations to the interior of the Church. He thanked the Past-President and President-Elect for their support and thanked all the other volunteers that make the Church "work".

Senior Minister's Report

Minister Liz Lerner Mclay reviewed the many positive accomplishments of the Church year. She recounted both successes and anticipate challenges. She gave her heartfelt thanks to the staff and volunteers who supported her during her first months at First UU. She closed her remarks by noting how quickly, sooner than expected, she began to feel at home in the congregation.

Incoming Presidents Remarks

John Simmonds began by thanking Past-President Cynthia Rosengard, and President-Jay Glasson for their support. He outlined the challenges for the coming year and the many plans that are in work. He reminded all that the work won't be easy but will be worthwhile. He concluded by asking all, when asked to raise their hand and say yes when asked to help support the work of the Church.

Closing

The meeting adjourned at 2:12 P.M.

Submitted by Clerk

Michael Cappelli