

East Shore Unitarian Church

2016 Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes

11:15 am, June 5, 2016

1. **Agenda:** Call to Order
2. Establishment of a Quorum (10% of membership, 49 members)
3. Adoption of Robert's Rules of Order (and appoint a Parliamentarian)
4. Acceptance of 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes
5. Election of 2016–2017 Officers and Board of Trustees
6. Election of 2016-2017 Nominating Committee Members
7. Election of Search Committee Members
8. Treasurer's Report, Approval of 2016-2017 Operating Budget
9. Recognition of Operating Fund Drive Committee
10. Approval of Bylaw Revisions
11. Report and Update from Holly House Task Force
12. President's Report and Congregational Response
13. Installation of new and continuing officers and Board
14. Closing Words, Adjourn

Our 2016 Annual meeting was held in the East Shore sanctuary, located at 12700 SE 32nd St, Bellevue, WA, and was facilitated by Beth Wilson, outgoing President of the Board of Trustees. Also in attendance were the other officers of the Board:

- Jack Slowriver – incoming President of the Board (formerly Vice-President),
- Connie Hirnle – new member of the Board and incoming Vice-President,
- Ryam Hill – Treasurer,
- David Baumgart – Secretary, and
- Board members at large: Marc Wanless (outgoing), Marilyn Mayers, Marcy Langrock (new member), Tom Doe, and Kristi Brennan. There is also one vacancy on the Board.

Also in attendance were our interim minister, Rev. Elaine Peresluha, + Staff Leadership Team:

- Jason Puracal, Dir Finance & Operations,
- Aisha Hauser, Dir Religious Education, and
- Nicole Denman, Manager of Membership and Communications.

Call to Order

Beth Wilson called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone at 11:16am.

Establishment of a Quorum (10% of membership, 49 members)

483 members is East Shore's total membership and over 100 members were present. Marc Wanless and Jack Slowriver were the counters.

Adoption of Robert's Rules of Order (and appoint a Parliamentarian)

Craig Nelson Moved – and Marilyn Fogelquist seconded the adoption of Robert's Rules of Order. Mike Radow was appointed as our parliamentarian.

Acceptance of 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve: Lee Dorigan approved, and Amy Woolwine seconded that we accept the 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes as written. Motion approved

Election of 2016–2017 Officers and Board of Trustees

The following officers of the board, and trustees at large were nominated for the next 12 months – until our next annual meeting on June 4, 2017:

Officers: Jack Slowriver (President), Connie Hirnle (Vice President), Ryam Hill (Treasurer), Dave Baumgart (Secretary)

Trustees at large: Marcy Langrock, Reed Cundiff, Tom Doe, Marilyn Mayers, and Kristi Brennan. There is one open position due to the recent resignation of Elaine Cox which will be filled during the next two or three months.

Trish Hunter moved that we approve the election of these officers and members at large, Marilyn Fogelquist seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Election of 2016-2017 Nominating Committee Members

Presented by Jenny Hall chair, Nominating Committee. The proposed members of the new nominating committee for the new fiscal year included:

Bill Austin, Barbara Elliott,
Mike Dresel, Cindy Snyder,

Barb Clagett moved to accept these members of the new nomination committee and Donna Van Barga Seconded; motion passed.

Election of Search Committee Members

Presented by Connie Hirnle, chair of the Search Nominating Com. The proposed members of the new Search Committee included:

Mary Anderson, Milly Mullarky,
Rhonda Brown, Ed Rittenhouse,
Ann Fletcher, Shirley Worth,
Janet Garrow, Andy Voss

Ben Sakamoto moved that we accept these members of the new Search Com, Sunshine Glynn Seconded; motion approved. They will be searching for our next settled minister.

Treasurer's Report, Approval of 2016-2017 Operating Budget

Presented by Ryam Hill, Treasurer

June 2015 – Standing on the Brink

Ryam contrasted our situation within the ESUC community from last June, to now. In June of 2015 we struggled with significant issues:

- Our minister, bookkeeper, and Director of Finance and Operations had all resigned.
- It appeared that our operating budget was going to be significantly in the red because of the minister's separation agreement.
- We lost two custodians in June leaving us short staffed in terms of maintenance of our facilities.
- Our Director of Membership announced her resignation, and the office manager was openly looking for another job.

Looking forward:

Currently, we are in a much better place having addressed all these challenges.

- Transparency
- Experienced Staff
- Organized funds and accounts
- Updated software package
- Unified Finance Committees working together
- Some money left for reserves

Turning things Around

Ryam then acknowledged the help and assistance of multiple members of our congregation who jumped into the gaps and found a way to resolve these issues on a timely basis. She was especially grateful for these 3 successes:

1. ...how quickly Jason Puracal was able to come on board, climb the learning curve, and become a very effective Director of Finance and Operations.
2. The significant contribution to our situation by our Worship Committee who excelled at providing a wonderful series of guest ministers and speakers throughout the 10 month period prior to Rev. Elaine joining our community. In the process, the Worship Committee also contributed mightily to a sustainable operating budget.
3. ...how people came through with their pledges and donations, with their time and treasure, with sufficient generosity to finish the current fiscal year with a modest surplus. Ryam acknowledged the role played by our OFD committee.

Ryam was pleased to report that our current operational performance was very strong and that the projected surplus by the end of the fiscal year, June 30 would likely exceed: \$25,000.

She attributed this strong performance to these highlights:

- New staff and volunteers (trained by remaining staff) jumped in and covered all the work, helping to cut costs,
- New income sources thru facility rentals,
- Endowment supported an early distribution,
- ...and gracious donations from many people.

Ryam reported the proposed balanced budget for our new fiscal year, 2016 / 2017: - \$973,152

Proposed Budget Q & A

Q: from Peggy: – current status of OFD? What about remaining pledges? what about the budget surplus?

A: Approximately \$685,000 in pledges have been received, with more family units expected to submit pledges. The budget surplus will be moved into our reserves.

Statement from Bret Hill: We should give thanks to all the staff and volunteers who contributed to the strong financial performance for the fiscal year – “a fabulous job.”

Statement from Ruth Edwards – Gina Cari, our former office manager, should also be praised for remaining on staff through most of the fiscal year, until her hours were reduced to half time. I recommend that we fund another office manager.

Q: from Trish Hunter: – Why don't we fund an office manager?

A: Rev Elaine stated that much of the office manager's work had been distributed to the RE Coordinator and Nicole, our membership manager and that our volunteers are covering the remainder of the work.

Donna Van Bargain moved that we approve the proposed budget of \$973,152 as documented in the congregational mailing; Paul Buhrens seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with 5 abstentions.

Recognition of Operating Fund Drive Committee

In conclusion, Ryam stated that our OFD did a fantastic pledge drive while also expending considerable effort in collaboration with Nicole to clean up our membership roster. Jack Slowriver and Tom Doe were the co-chairs. The members of the fund drive included Mary Anderson, Ralph Lutz, Milly Mullarky, and Craig Nelson.

Approval of Bylaw Revisions

A subcommittee of 3 board members (Ryam Hill, Jack Slowriver, Tom Doe), led by Beth Wilson, reviewed all of East Shore's Bylaws and then submitted recommended bylaw revision for Board Review. The Board was now recommending these revisions for approval by the ESUC membership.

Beth characterized all the changes as primarily “clean-up.” More significant changes may be coming after the Interim Minister has reviewed all the bylaws and thoroughly discussed with the Board.

Two revisions were identified as “Substantive” changes: 1) electronic notification, 2) Addition of restorative justice process in the removal of a selected member from the church community.

Article V, Section E.5: Restorative Justice Process

Rationale behind the change: This process feels more in line with a caring community. First attempt is to understand and resolve the problem collaboratively using restorative justice model.

Article VIII, Section C.2: Electronic Notification

Rationale behind the change: Allow for members to opt in for electronic notifications. This will create an easier process, save on postage, and be easier on the environment.

Paul Burhens Moved, xxx seconded

Q: Lee Winstrom – Revision #11 to Article XI, Section F sounds substantive – making the DRE a member of the executive Com.

A: Beth responded that this has been our practice for the last several years. The bylaw is being revised to reflect our current practice.

Q: Lee Winstrom – Revision #13 to Article XII, Section C – leave all committees at the discretion of the Board.

A: Beth clarified that this only applies to “Board standing” committees.

Q: Lee Winstrom – Revision #14 to Article XII, Section F – Charters for committees are “in accordance with” policy based governance. What is meant by “policy-based governance?”

A: Rev. Elaine responded that the existing structure is a combination of committee based and policy based governance. She stated: “I believe it is important to clarify this structure. We will be working further to clarify and better communicate what is meant by “policy based governance.” [discussion] During this discussion, it was generally acknowledged that it would be appropriate for a better understanding of how we have implemented this structure and this method of governance. Both Rev. Elaine and Jack stated that follow-up communications will be forthcoming to clarify this subject.

Mike Dressel moved that we table the change to Article XII, Section F, Trish Hunter seconded. [discussion]

Dennis Fleck suggested that we also table the change to Article XII, Section C, which also mentions “policy based governance.” Consequently, tabling the proposed revision to Article XII Section C was added to Mike Dressel’s motion to table. [discussion] During this discussion, it was pointed out that “policy based governance” has been our general practice for about ten years, and that the bylaws as written are not supportive of our current practices.

Xxx moved to close the debate, xxx Seconded Motion passed – and further discussion on the motion to table was ended. The congregation then voted on the motion to table. Motion defeated.

Q: Paul Buhrens – Revision #7 Article VIII, Section C.2 – Wouldn’t it be easier to implement electronic notification to “opt out” instead of opting in? Could the revision specify “opt out?”

A: Beth responded that we are required to ask members to opt in, in accordance with state law. [Washington State Law RCW 24.03.009 and RCW 24/03.080]

Q: Mike Dresel – Revision #6 Article V, Section E.5 - asked for more information about Restorative Justice.

A: Beth responded by reading a description of this process and commented that this is consistent with the UUA values, and with ESUC practices.

Dave Hutchinson moved to call the question, xxx Seconded. We then voted on the motion to end discussion. 5 opposed, motion passed to end discussion.

We then voted on adopting all proposed revisions to the bylaws. 80 in favor 13 opposed, 7 abstentions, motion passed.

Report and Update from Holly House Task Force

Presented by Bob Weiss and Lee Dorigan co-chairs

<Please see Attachment for Presentation> The task force is a temporary group of folks, chartered by the Board of Trustees, to perform research, evaluate the practical options, and report-out to the Board and the East Shore congregation the findings of the task force.

Bob and Lee stated that the task force deliberations and meetings were open to the congregation and transparent to all. Task force meeting minutes and related documents are posted on the web. They also stated that to be successful, the task force needs the active support of the congregation.

Bob and Lee described the publicity available to the congregation which includes meetings, and town halls. As of June 5, the task force had received 17 option papers from the congregation. Each option will be explored with the support of the author in collaboration with the task force.

Bob and Lee then outlined the timeline, schedule for HHTF Town Halls, and evaluation criteria. A summary of the 17 option papers grouped into 6 concepts was available on the East Shore website. In fact, all of this information was on the website; www.esuc.org.

President's Report and Congregational Response (Beth Wilson)

Beth stated she was so gratified about how strong we are as a congregation... We have come thru multiple significant challenges, surviving and thriving. We are getting better at having the difficult conversations. She is profoundly thankful for the opportunity for leadership, stating: "I have grown so much during the past two years." Beth referred everyone to the East Shore Annual Reports which summarizes what all of our committees, ministries, and the Board accomplished during the past year.

Emily and Barbara, on behalf of the East Shore community, expressed our appreciation of a job well done. They presented a bouquet of flowers to Beth on behalf of their covenant circle.

Installation of new and continuing officers and Board

9 members of the board including the 4 officers were installed. The new Board of Trustees includes the following roster:

Jack Slowriver, President Connie Hirnle, Vice-President

Ryam Hill, Treasurer David Baumgart, Secretary

Members at large include:

Kristi Brennan Reed Cundiff

Tom Doe Marcy Langrock

Marilyn Mayers <**open board position>

*[**Note: this is the position formerly held by Elaine Cox. It is expected that the Nominating Com. will identify an appropriate candidate soon. The Board may choose to appoint that new member to serve the remainder of Elaine's term.]*

Closing Words, Adjourn at 12:30pm

Please let me know of any additions or correction,

Submitted by David Baumgart, Secretary, Board of Trustees

East Shore Universalist Unitarian Church – Bellevue, Washington

Attachment – HHTF Presentation



Property

- ❖ .75 acre
- ❖ Farm house with detached garage/shed
- ❖ Three easements through condo parking lots
- ❖ Surrounded by 3 condos and ESUC
- ❖ Designated as R-30 which will allow about 22 units
- ❖ Possible rezone for more units

Who We are and What We Do

- ❖ Ad hoc committee of the Board
- ❖ Explore future possibilities for the HH property
- ❖ Engage congregation in process to select an option

How We Work

- ❖ Open monthly meetings
- ❖ On going publicity/information via website, ESConnections (FB), email blast, The Beacon
- ❖ Keep the congregation informed and seek input

What we have done so far

- ❖ Designed standardized form for Option papers
- ❖ Received 17; combined into six concepts
- ❖ Member of HHTF captain for each concept
- ❖ Our responsibility to be open to any and all ideas

The Future

- ❖ Apply criteria to assess and rank each concept
- ❖ Ask those who submitted option papers to help – be an advocate
- ❖ Careful timing: material available 2 weeks before town halls

Timeline

- ❖ 6-5-16 Congregational Meeting

- ❖ 9-14-16 Town Hall - 6 Options
- ❖ 10-9-16 Town Hall - 3 Options
- ❖ 1-8-17 Town Hall - 1-3 Options
- ❖ 6-4-17 Congregational Meeting

Criteria for Analyzing Options

- ❖ Social and economic justice consistent with UU principles
 - Who will benefit or be harmed by any change?
 - What demands will be on the congregation?
- ❖ Implementation time
- ❖ Risk/liability
 - Short term and long term
- ❖ Financial impact
 - Positive and negative