

East Shore Unitarian Church

Draft Congregational Meeting Minutes

4/26/20

Agenda:

- Call to Order – 12:15
- Opening Words by Reverend Steve Furrer
- Opening Words by Dennis Fleck, board president
- Appointment of Parliamentarian
- Establishment of Quorum
- Action on Bylaw Amendment
- Closing Words – Rev. Steve
- Motion to Adjourn
- Budget Town Hall

Meeting called to order by Dennis Fleck at 12:16 PM

Opening words and chalice lighting were done by Rev. Steve Furrer

Opening words by Dennis Fleck, Board President:

The board has called this meeting via Zoom because of the pandemic restriction on meeting in groups. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on amending the bylaws to allow the congregation to use absentee balloting in the future.

Parliamentarians: Ann Fletcher and Mike Radow were appointed as parliamentarians

Zoom Host: Joseph Newman, church sexton

Zoom Co-Hosts: Doug Strombom, Dennis Fleck, Mike Radow, Ann Fletcher

Comments by Parliamentarians: According to Roberts Rules of order participants may suspend the rule of discussion by general consent or by 2/3 vote. If not, everyone present is allowed 10 minutes to speak. No unrelated new business may be conducted at this meeting.

Establishment of Quorum: Doug Strombom, as cohost of this meeting, verified individually with each participant that they were members, that they could hear the proceedings, and how many members were present on their connection. Each name was verified as a member by both Mike Radow and Ann Fletcher.

Quorum was established. 147 voting members were present, not counting the co-hosts.

Action on Bylaw Amendment:

The method for voting was explained by Dennis Fleck and Doug Strombom. Everyone was given a chance to practice using the “raise hand” feature of Zoom.

Dennis Fleck read and showed on the screen the motion that had been prepared by the board of directors:

The Board of Trustees moves (Jerry Bushnell) and seconds (Maury Edwards) to amend current Bylaw Article VIII, Section F “There shall be no proxy or absentee voting.” to read, “Absentee voting is allowed but not proxy voting.”

Following the reading of the motion, Evelyn Smith moved, and Mary Anderson seconded a motion to suspend Roberts Rules of Order for this meeting and dispense with discussion.

This motion to suspend discussion was passed by acclamation with no dissenting votes.

A vote was then taken on the motion to amend the bylaws and allow absentee ballots. The voting was done using the raise hand feature of zoom, ensuring that all members present had a chance to vote, including those with more than one member on a Zoom connection. The vote was independently counted by the two parliamentarians who agreed on the final count.

**Vote results: For the motion – 147, Against the motion – none
The for votes surpassed the 98 votes required for a 2/3 majority, so the motion passed.**

Closing words were given by Rev. Steve Furrer

Janet Garrow moved, and Bill Carlstrom seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

Vote results: Unanimous vote to adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 1:55 PM.

For suggestions on correcting or editing these minutes, please contact jerrybushnell@comcast.net.

Jerry Bushnell
Board Secretary