

**Unitarian Universalist Church Of Muncie  
Minutes of the Congregational Meeting**

**Sunday, May 23, 2021**

Meeting called to order at 12:00 PM

In attendance:

Total number of voters of record (from June meeting):	151
Minimum number of voters for Quorum (20% of record):	31
Number of voters of record in attendance:	57

**The president of the congregation calls that a quorum is present.**

**Business may be conducted**

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**Motion for the approval of the agenda.**

Motion: Emily Wornell  
Second: Jerry McKean  
Vote Yes – Unanimous  
No – 0  
Abstain - 0

**Motion Passed**

**Motion to approve the Minutes of the October 4, 2020 Congregational Meeting**

Motion: Emily Wornell  
Second: Jerry McKean  
Vote Yes – Unanimous  
No – 0  
Abstain – 0

**Motion Passed**

**New Business**

Treasurer's Report - Jennifer Hollems

The financial impact of the pandemic (Fiscal Year 2020-21) has been less concerning than originally thought. The checking and investment balances are in good shape. The loose offerings are lower due to

no in-person passing of the basket. Fund-raising was revised down in October with the cancellation of the Bazaar, however the Fund-raising committee has met the expectations despite the adverse environment due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan was forgiven.

### Presentation of the Proposed 2021-22 Budget

The Stewardship Drive reports pledge income for 2021-22 of \$278,074 – A successful drive

The budget presented to the congregation reflects an optimism of full operations in the near future with no major cuts to any expense line items. Realistic projections for income were adjusted based on some losses from the COVID-19 response and closure. The Board of Trustees recommends a 2% raise for all staff members. The Board also voted to expand the Coordinator of Youth Programming position with an anticipation that this position will expand again in the future.

The proposed budget does show a deficit of \$9,395. The Treasure and Board of Trustees feels that this is acceptable and that this will ensure a strong exit from the pandemic and future growth of our congregation.

Discussion of the need for boiler replacement in the very near future. The Board of Trustees and Finance Committee are aware of this and are working on plans for this. One large concern is regarding the copper pipe embedded in the concrete floor. Bruce Craig reports that the complete HVAC system may need a total replacement. The boiler estimate would be approximately \$18,000 each. (2 in need of replacement in the near future) There may need to be a Capital Campaign outside the budget in the future and the Board and Long-Term Planning will be exploring the needs and possibilities.

### **Motion to approve the 2021-22 budget**

Motion: Chuck Austin

Second: Linda Hanson

Vote Yes – Unanimous

No – 0

Abstain – 0

### **Motion Passed**

### Nominations Committee

Proposed Slate of Board of Trustees Officers:

Ben Strack – President

Steve Chalk – President-Elect

Emily Wornell – Past President

Joe Kaplan – Vice President

Lisa Cox – Treasurer

Discussion regarding the potential precedent of partners serving on the Board of Trustees concurrently. The potential of conflict of interest in this area is not codified in our policies and procedures, but has perhaps been part of the culture that may or may not need addressed. The Board of Trustees and the Nominating Committee did discuss this issue and decided that it is best practice to nominate the persons that are best qualified for the positions. With the caveat that partners should not be check signers.

Discussion regarding the potential of a youth member being nominated to the Board of Trustees. The Board would welcome the nomination of any youth that would be interested.

**Motion to approve the slate of Board of Trustees nominations, as presented**

Motion: Eleanor Trawick

Second: Bruce Craig

Vote Yes – Unanimous

No – 0

Abstain – 0

**Motion Passed**

Proposed congregational appointment to the Nominating Committee – John Bartlett

**Motion to approve the congregational appointment to the Nominating Committee**

Motion: Judy Lowe

Second: Judy Craig

Vote Yes – 56

No – 0

Abstain – 1

**Motion Passed**

## Transitions Team Report

The proposed Congregational Covenant:

We Commit to:

Welcome with open hearts and minds all who gather here;

Encourage others with our words and actions,

Share ideas freely, listen deeply, and disagree respectfully;

Celebrate diversity and creativity.

### **Motion to approve the proposed Congregational Covenant**

Motion: Jerry McKean

Second: Annemarie Voss

Vote Yes – 51

No – 1

Abstain – 4

### **Motion Passed**

## Committee on Ministries Report

The Committee on Ministries has been working on recommendations regarding our church committee structure.

Leadership Development will be a task that the Board will encourage in the upcoming months.

This report may prompt some changes, so the Board wants to inform the congregation to be aware and invite discussion at any time.

## **Unfinished Business**

### COVID-19 Task Force Report

The task force has been monitoring the available information to make the best recommendations to the congregation since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The recent announcement by the Center for Disease Control regarding vaccinations and gatherings has been a significant and surprising change for the Task Force.

As this time, it is anticipated that there is not going to be a recommendation for reopening until later in this year (possibly Fall, but do not hold anyone to this prediction, the situation is very fluid)

The Task Force will continue to monitor the local statistics and is considering recommending a multi-platform solution regarding reopening with the goal of the most inclusivity.

Discussion of the ventilation issues with the building. (Sliding Sanctuary Doors, Fans and other Property Maintenance ideas)

Inquiry as to if any indoor church events have been approved? Answer: No

Has the Task Force explored the plans of other churches in the Muncie and Delaware County area?  
Answer: Some inquiry with the Presbyterian church, but more could be contacted.

### Ministry Options Going Forward

No open discussion on this topic at this meeting, just a report. There is a town hall meeting scheduled on June 13 that will include representatives from the UUA (Christine Purcell, Rev. Keith Kron) where open discussion will be held.

The option that is not available for next year is a settled minister because the search process has a longer horizon than is available to us at this point.

At this time there are two options going forward:

#### A third year of Interim Ministry

If settlement of a minister is our goal by summer of 2023, then a third year of Interim will be necessary. The search process would begin in late 2021 to achieve this goal.

#### A Developmental Ministry

This is a call to ministry (contract), not a settlement. This is a transitioning ministry with specific goals, as opposed to the broad goals of an Interim (spelled out in the Five Points of Interim Ministry)

**Motion to Adjourn – Ben Strack**

**Meeting Adjourned – 2:00 PM**