

Minutes

First Unitarian Church of Victoria Annual General Meeting

Held at 12:15 PM on May 26, 2024 in the Sanctuary

1. Call to Order, Welcome, and Territorial Acknowledgement Jim Willis

Meeting called to order at 12:20pm. Jim provided instructions on who is eligible to vote and provided the territorial acknowledgement.
2. Appointment of John Worton as Parliamentarian Jim Willis

Jim Willis appointed John Worton as Parliamentarian.
3. Confirmation of Quorum (40) Roberta Clair

Roberta Clair stated that there are 69 voting members present, which exceeds our required quorum of 40.
4. Invocation, Chalice lighting, Remembrance of departed beloveds Rev. Melora Lynngood

Rev. Melora provided the chalice lighting.

Rev. Melora shared remembrance of departed beloveds
 - Margo Garmsen
 - Doreen Burgess
 - David Jordan
 - John Tibbles
 - Jane Wilson
 - Louise Parsons
 - Gloria Hopewell
 - Linda Seiegel
 - Don Mills
 - Barbara Nyland
5. **Motion:** Approval of Agenda Jim Willis
Johnathan Savard moved to approve the agenda with the change of moving the update on strategic initiatives to after the financial report presentation. Audrey Taylor seconded. **Carried.**
6. **Motion:** Approval of Minutes of the January 28 Budget Meeting Jim Willis

Kathleen Zimmerman moved to approve the January Budget meeting minutes. Katherine Maas seconded. **Carried.**
7. Appointment of a two-person committee to review the minutes of the AGM within two weeks Jim Willis

Katherine Maas and Audrey Taylor volunteered to review the minutes of the AGM within 2 weeks.

8. **Motion:** Reaffirmation of our Lay Chaplains

Liz Graham

Liz Graham moved that the FUCV members reaffirms the appointment of Barbara Boyle, Oceanna Hall, and Jenny Heston as our three lay chaplains. Pat Kinrade seconded. **Carried.**

9. Receive Annual Report

Jim Willis

Jim Willis acknowledged the Annual Report and stated that there will be further updates coming to the report.

10. Nominating Committee **Report** and **Election** of Board of Trustees

Jan Thomson

Rev. Melora expressed thanks to the outgoing board with particular emphasis to Kristina Stephens, Evelyn Peters, and Jeri Dause who are retiring from the board.

Election of Board of Trustees:

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Jan Thompson presented the list of the recommended incoming board, including seven returning members as well as three individuals up for election.

Board Executive

President: Jim Willis

Vice President: Audrey Taylor

Secretary: Adriane Matheson-Smith

Treasurer: Matt Britton – **for election**

Trustees

Admin, HR & Comms: Mariko Matsumoto

Admin, Finance: Barrie Wiebe

Property Management: Al Hoffman

Congregational Life: Katherine Maas

Outreach: Lynne Bonner – **for election**

Spiritual Development: Karen Sharlow – **for election**

Jan Thompson asked three times if there are any nominations from the floor. There were no additional nominations from the floor.

Jan Thompson moved to elect Lynn Bonner, Karen Sharlow, and Matt Britton to the board in the above-mentioned positions. Kristina Stevens seconded. **Carried.**

Election of Nominating Committee:

Jan Thompson shared that Astrid Firley-Eaton and Roberta Clair are leaving the nominating committee, both having finished their second 2-year term.

Jan Thompson provided the recommended list of the upcoming nominating committee, including 3 returning members and two individuals up for election.

Nominating Committee

Jan Thomson

Louise de Lugt

Lynn Hunter

Liz Graham – **for election**

Maggie Nixon – **for election**

Jan Thompson moved to elect Maggie Nixon and Liz Graham to the nominating committee. Pat Kinrade seconded. **Carried.**

11. Ritual of Transition acknowledging incoming board

Rev. Melora Lynngood

Rev. Melora led the congregation in the ritual transition of acknowledging the incoming board.

12. **Motion:** Vote on updated mission statement

Dar Levy

Dar Levy presented the final draft mission statement for our vote and asked to accept the mission statement if 80% of it resonates. Dar read the final draft for our consideration.

Choosing our own paths, we come together to grow in spirit;
to honour and celebrate our connection to each other and the natural world;
to listen with humility to the wisdom of each person's experience;
to work together for justice, and co-create a diverse and thriving
community,
where all feel respected, cared for, and held in love.

For more information on the process and on how to approach the mission draft, see April 28 worship service: <https://fb.watch/rPPU8mph1B/>. Also see report from Mission team, included in reports section.

Dar Levy moved that the congregation accept the mission statement as written. Johnathan Savard seconded. **Carried.**

13. Receive Insurance Report

Bruce Nicol

Bruce Nicol provided the report on the insurance. This year the insurance increased from ~\$37,500, to ~\$38,550. Insurance has increased greatly in the last few years from being ~\$16,000 in 2021-2022. This is in part due to three major claims made in the last 5 years. Deductibles for most of the

property is \$10,000 or higher to keep insurance costs relatively steady with last year,

Bruce Nicol moved that the Insurance Report is received. Pat Kinrade seconded. **Carried.**

14. Receive 2023 Year End Finances

Bruce Nicol

In overview the church's financial position is steady; however there needs to be an increase in revenue over the next few years in order to fund without a deficit. In 2023 both pledges and rental income were higher than budgeted which led to a lower deficit than expected.

At the end of 2023 the church's assets (excluding the Zoie Gardner fund) are over \$865,000. The liabilities were around \$220,000.

The overall takeaway is that the church has funds but we cannot stick to the status quo.

Kristina Stevens moved to accept the financial statements. Johnathan Savard seconded. **Carried.**

15. Receive update on Strategic Initiatives (strategic financial marketing plan)

Rev. Shana Lynngood

Rev. Shana shared an overview of the work that the 5-year strategic planning team has been doing based on the recommendations in the report from Rachel Maxwell. The focus has been on looking strategically about the church's short-term finances and where to invest funds to assist with future growth and sustainability.

The team's goal is to share suggestions on investments and strategic projects with the board in early September, pass on those projects to other groups within the church such as membership and marketing, then disband in November.

Rev. Shana discussed the 3-pillar approach on how to pay for the facilities and programs.

The first pillar is property. The Property team developed both long- and short-term maintenance plans which show that approximately \$92,000 will be needed each year for ongoing maintenance; this amount should be covered by rental income. The current rental income does not cover all property expenses (i.e., insurance) but it is close.

The second pillar is programs and personnel which should be covered by pledges; currently pledges are not high enough to sustain these expenses.

The third pillar is outreach via programs such as lifeline, GVAT, etc. These are funded through targeted fundraising campaigns.

Questions were asked from the congregation regarding how to better utilize our technology, in particular how to make it easier for people to give

contributions when attending Zoom services. Rev. Shana stated that this was an avenue being looked into by the team.

16. Receive Financial Review Committee Report

Pat Conroy

Pat Conroy presented the financial review committee report. The committee focuses primarily on the operations of the church's finances. The report concluded that the financial report fairly presented a big picture view of the church finances in all material aspects.

Pat Conroy moved that the financial report be received. Matt Britton seconded. **Carried.**

17. Election of Financial Review Committee for 2024

Jim Willis

Jim Willis stated that Pat Conroy, Stephen Lentz, and Bob Rintoul will be the Financial Review Committee for 2024. As no members of the committee are changing, no vote is required.

18. Questions from the membership

Jim Willis

Hugo Sutmoller expressed a desire to revisit the topic of reducing or eliminating our dues to the CUC for the next years budget. Hugo also expressed a desire for further understanding of the benefits of CUC membership.

19. Closing words and extinguish the chalice

Rev. Shana Lynngood

Rev. Shana provided the closing words the chalice.

20. Adjournment

Jim Willis

Meeting was adjourned at 1:36pm.