

Minutes of the Annual Meeting – Draft 1/4/22 Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

May 2, 2021 – Via Zoom Electronic Meeting

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9:00am Check-in Opens. Conducting meeting via Zoom.

Participants held in waiting room until the meeting begins.

10:07am Meeting Called to Order (“Let’er roll.”) – Sid McCausland, President of AUUF & Chair

Zoom Hosting and Audio/Visual (A/V) : Alix McKee, Cassie Thomas, and Ken Winterberger
Registrar : Don Antrobus

Opening Words & Chalice Lighting : “Stream of Life” – Rev. Lise Adams Sherry

Land Acknowledgment – Kathleen Lucich, AUUF Board Vice President

Reflection: Honoring Members Who Have Died In the Past Year

– Rev. Lise Adams Sherry & Stephanie Koonz

With these moments of reflection, we honor our members and friends who have died since our last annual meeting. We honor and remember: *Carrie Lewis, Michael Pounds, Chris Low, and Jack Roderick*

“Alleluia” by AUUF choir

Recitation of AUUF Covenant (in unison – muted or unmuted)

Confirmation of Quorum – Don Antrobus

Don confirms that we have more than 70 members in attendance via Zoom. We need a quorum of 52 to conduct business. We have approximately 80 attendees right now.

Appointment of Heather Flynn as Parliamentarian by the Chair

Explanation of Zoom Features, Meeting Rules, & Practice Voting – Alix McKee, Zoom Host

Each member should have a device (computer, laptop, or phone) signed in just for that member. To get the attention of the chair, please use the “Reaction” tool to raise your hand & lower it later. Non-voting attendees (friends & guests) should select the “Ineligible to vote” choice on each ballot. Chair will ask if anyone needs more time to vote before asking the Host to close the poll. Host will close the poll and post the results for all to see.
Practice Poll 1 : *Do you enjoy Spring Break Up* is conducted. Overwhelming “*Love It*” response.

10:32 Approve Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda by Joyce Laine, second by Lucinda Kinard. Passed w/o objection.

Approve Minutes from June 7, 2020 Annual Meeting

Motion by James Dryden, second Wray Kinard, to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2020 AUUF Annual Meeting as corrected after April distribution. Declared Passed without objection

President’s Report – Sid McCausland Review of this Pandemic Year

It has been an unusual and difficult year during which our Fellowship has continued to function admirably during the first full year of the pandemic. We’ve seen –

- First virtual AUUF virtual Annual Meeting June 7, 2020 using Zoom
- Virtual Worship and Forum services including partnership with Fairbanks Fellowship

- Continued work on the sanctuary remodel with an expected completion by June 2021
- Arrival of our contract minister - Rev. Lise Adams Sherry in August 2020
- Many innovative Religious Exploration programs developed by Rosene's group for the pandemic
- All of us are looking forward to in-person services this summer with zoom support

Rev Lise comments that she has been impressed by the resilience of the Fellowship working through the pandemic obstacles. We have also begun to make progress on some of our right relations. The Healthy Congregation Team being built should help with this area. The Safer Congregation Team has a separate role but both should be resources to help resolve conflicts in the fellowship. Resolving conflicts takes time and revolves around valuing others.

Sid McCausland continues – We are presenting a proposed FY22 budget that anticipates a 8-9% deficit. This is not sustainable. We have used our savings and one time income for several years now. It is time to take a hard look at who we are and who we can afford to be. What is our mission? What are the programs that we must support as part of our core and how will we do that?

The pandemic has been with us now for 15 months and our challenges are not over. We need to carefully negotiate the COVID situation balancing protection and our need/desire for in-person gatherings. Many will ask for continued zoom or hybrid gatherings, but we can't do that with just the two existing A/V volunteers. We desperately need volunteers in several areas. This congregation has shown resiliency in the past and we expect it again.

11:01am Chair calls for a five minute break.

Endowment Committee Report – Wray Kinard, Chair of Endowment Committee

The Endowment Committee operates as an independent group responsible to the members and not reporting to the board. The fund has grown well this last year. In the nine months ending March 30, 2021, the fund has had a net growth from \$151K to \$185K. Approximately \$2k was contributed by members and the remainder was investment growth. We should all consider donations and/or bequests to the Endowment Fund which can provide funding to AUUF in years to come.

Motion by Mary Kulawik, second by Stephenie Wheeler, to accept the Endowment Committee report.
Passed without objection.

Building & Grounds Report: Renovations – Don Antrobus

Don showed photos of the sanctuary construction work in progress. For those unfamiliar with the work, it includes : wheel chair access ramp to the stage, NE corner vestibule walls removed, new double doors from the north coat rack into sanctuary, new sound booth, heating & lighting in the music office, new audio/visual boards, new microphones, A/V cabling, new cameras, streaming within the building capability, and wider shorter steps at the front of the stage. Building & Grounds has also installed new automatic door openers, installed a new sprinkler compressor, extended the snow guards on the roof, and nearly completed installation of a rapid cycle (15 minute) dishwasher. We expect the sanctuary remodel to be completed this summer but there is a need for volunteers for remodeling work and A/V.

Motion by Cindy Kinard, second by Doug Eby [**noted “with passion”**], to accept the Building & Grounds report.
Passed without objection.

Nominating Committee Report – Kalen Saxton and Michelle Champion
Election of Members to the Endowment Committee

The nominating committee nominates Stephenie Wheeler, Judy Engh, and Harry Crawford for seats on the Endowment Committee. Hearing no nominations from the floor and no objection, the chair

closes the nominations and requests the poll. The zoom poll completed with 82 ballot responses (approximately 90 participants with about half dozen non-voting). The Chair declares the proposed slate of three has been elected. More detailed results are available after the meeting to anyone who requests them.

Election of Members to the Board of Directors

The nominating committee nominates Kathleen Lucich and Kalen Saxton for seats on the AUUF Board of Directors. These seats have a three-year term beginning July 2021. Hearing no nominations from the floor and no objection, the chair closes the nominations and requests the zoom poll. The zoom poll completed with 82 ballot responses (89 current participants with about half dozen non-voting). The Chair declares the proposed slate has been elected. More detailed results are available after the meeting to anyone who requests them.

Treasurer's Report on Financial State of AUUF - Peggy Robinson, Treasurer

The statement of financial condition indicates that we are financially sound, but we are spending our savings. We need to consider our future as the President discussed.

The balance sheet shows \$258K in the bank and \$186K in the endowment fund. Our fixed assets include our building \$1.801M, land \$348K, and furniture \$72K. The Mama Bear recreation property (currently for sale) is valued at \$7K giving AUUF total assets of \$2.673M.

Our liabilities include prepaid pledges \$18K and our construction loan \$196K. The loan is being paid off at a rate that will result in a substantial balloon payment in 2032. Some members have contributed to prepayment of this loan.

Our equity at 90% of our total assets is very substantial. AUUF has a designated operating reserve of \$100K and restricted fund balances of \$83K but our undesignated operating funds \$52K are dwindling as we have mentioned.

Motion by Wray Kinard, second by Berta Gardner, to accept the Treasurer's Report.

Adoption of Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget

The proposed budget as delivered in the Call-to-Meeting package was prepared on 4/1/21. Given new information, it was updated by the board and we offer this updated 4/30/21 version for adoption by the congregation. The notable changes were:

- Increased pledges since members are still pledging
- Alliance has offered to pay for the newspaper ads
- Loaning the gaming permit has produced extra income
- Health insurance premiums are increasing

The budgeted Total Income of \$407,965, including the \$28,725 subsidy, matches the expected \$406,965 Operating Expenses. Final commitment of Undesignated Reserves (deficit, spending our savings) is \$28,725. We project, for Fiscal years ending June 2020 to 2022; our Undesignated Reserve is expected to finish successively at \$52K, \$39K, and \$10K. Clearly, we must alter our pattern next year.

Motion by Heather Flynn, second by Joyce Laine, to adopt the 4/30/21 FY22 budget as approved by the AUUF Board of Directors.

Discussion :

We need to stop acting like the Alaska Legislature and match our expenses to our income.

The music budget is included in the Ministerial activities. These are summary documents. Detailed budget documents are available. Twenty percent (20%) of the Bill Stilling bequest should be deposited in the endowment fund by policy. The Bill Stilling bequest totals about \$123k and the bulk has not been deposited in our bank accounts.

Stephanie Koonz, President of The Alliance, stated that The Alliance is offering to fund the Anchorage Daily News advertisements because they strongly supported this public visibility. Furthermore, it is strongly felt that this should be funded by the AUUF operating budget.

Poll results (92 participants, 79 responses, 74 Yes, 0 No, 2 Abstain, 3 Not eligible) Passed

COVID Protocols Discussion – Sid McCausland

We are continuing beyond our schedule noon adjournment, those who wish can stay.

The online survey about reopening the fellowship to in person services, forum, and other activities has had 38 responders. The results are available at links on the website but they demonstrate a desire to resume in-person services but without a consistent approach. The president gave a brief presentation of our current policies. We have been committed to following CDC and Municipality of Anchorage guidance. Worship associates are planning to resume at least broadcasting from AUUF in June, UUA has said we might not have services in person until fall, and resuming hybrid zoom and in-person without new A/V volunteers is not possible.

Our current AUUF policy allows small groups to meet if all are vaccinated and agree to follow Municipal and CDC recommendations. Currently this requires masks and social distancing when children are present.

Discussion :

Heather Flynn – AUUF does not issue ‘orders’ as on slide. Suggestion to change word accepted.

Joyce Laine – Are inside sanitary door handles in the restrooms still being considered?

Mary Ann Eininger– Are saying we will not have in-person meetings without new A/V volunteers?

Joyce Laine – How can we observe the 25-person limit in the sanctuary if we have in-person services? Lottery? Pre-scheduled attendance? Everything will need to be worked out.

Heather Flynn – Remote zoom access for those who travel is important as well as for unvaccinated

Carma Reed – Can we commit to in-person and zoom? When is remodel to be done for sure?

Alix McKee – We need two people for each service for a hybrid. We only have two people total now.

Anna – We should maintain masks and 6 ft spacing so people don’t feel their privacy is invaded.

James – It’s a moving target with Muni changing as CDC changes. We need a reset on the survey.

George Bryson – Will A/V volunteers need to be physically present at AUUF? Short answer- Yes.

Ken Winterberger – Reiterates that we need new A/V crews and training on new equipment.

George Bryson – Can Freethinkers meet w/o Zoom? Yes

Joyce Laine – Who will be the final arbiter? Minister? Yes, minister and staff.

Rev. Lise – It requires negotiation with building users and consideration of current recommendations. No absolute rules but agreement among users and others who are in the building such as staff. It is a work in progress. Our in-person services will depend on A/V volunteers. We should also give thought to our response to a situation where we have a member who tests positive after participating at AUUF.

Bill Jamison – Serious compliments to Sid for a well-run meeting. Thank you all.

12:45 Other Business – None offered from the floor (Participant count at 70)

Closing Words & Chalice Lighting with special thoughts of India and their pandemic

Motion to adjourn by Heather Flynn, second by Sid Atwood. Passed by unmuted acclaim with a thank you to A/V support.

12:45 Adjourn

Closing AUUF Choir singing Holiday Medley prepared under pandemic rules.

Respectfully submitted by James Dryden, Secretary 5/2/21

Supporting documents are available in digital and hardcopy. These include Call to Meeting packets, proposed budget, financial statements, and PowerPoint slides used during the meeting.