

East Shore Unitarian Church - 2020 Annual Congregational Meeting

6/14/2020 ♦ 12700 SE 32nd Street, Bellevue, WA 98005 ♦ (425) 747-3780 ♦ www.esuc.org

Agenda:

- Opening words, Rev. Stephen Furrer
- Call to Order
- Adoption of Robert's Rules of Order (and appoint a Parliamentarians)
- Establishment of a Quorum
- President's Report
- Approval of 6/9/19 Annual Meeting, 4/26/20, and 5/3/20 Congregational Meeting Minutes
- Paycheck Protection Program Loan Authorization
- Approval of 2020-21 Operating Budget
- Election of 2020–21 Officers, Board of Trustees, & Nominating Committee Members
- Installation of new and continuing officers and Board
- Hand-off to Mike Radow
- Closing Words - Steve
- Adjourn

Opening words: Done by Rev. Stephen Furrer

Call to Order: Done by Dennis Fleck, outgoing president

Adoption of Robert's Rules of Order and appointment of Parliamentarians

Ann Fletcher and Dave Meyers were appointed parliamentarians. Dave shared the method for voting, and discussion, he explained that we will be using the yes/no feature of zoom. He reminded us that there will not be unrelated new business.

Establishment of a Quorum:

98 members were required. Mike Radow read each name of members checked in, confirmed membership, and confirmed that we had a quorum.

President's Report:

Dennis gave thanks to outgoing board members and the nominating committee members who have completed their terms. Dennis reviewed his planned areas of focus from last year. They included developing strategy and tactics to grow our membership, develop a process of how to decide about the Holly House funds would be used, moving forward the developmental ministry, continue work to become more inclusive church that is welcoming to those of color and other marginalized identities.

Dennis reviewed the five board goals from last year:

1. Increasing membership
2. Educate congregants about East Shore and policy-based governance
3. Develop an East Shore Safety Plan
4. Develop a master campus plan
5. Continue to work on becoming an anti-racist congregation

His reflections on how we did with the goals are as follows

1. We did not see the growth we had planned for the year. Our size of 400 is not enough to sustain a facility and staff capable of sustaining 600 members.
2. We continue to work on policy-based governance.
3. We started to identify how to develop a process for Holly House funds.
4. A campus safety plan has been done. A campus master plan was deferred.
5. The board met twice a month, to work on process and becoming anti-racist.

The Holly house process has had effect on staff, board, and congregation. The cancellation led to an opportunity to discuss and give everyone a chance to be heard and to hear others. Dennis hopes that we can move forward. Due to the corona virus, our staff has worked nobly to transition us to Zoom based worship and meetings. We will not know the impact of this pandemic on our congregation for months or years to come.

Black lives matter and there are many ways to get involved. Our work is just beginning. Dennis and his wife have decided to give public witness and he invites all of us at East Shore to individually give public witness to Black lives mattering.

Our youth are our future, and they impact us in the present. He noted how the youth changed our chalice response, making it more inclusive. We learned about Robbie's rule from the youth, welcoming people to our discussions.

Approval of 6/9/19 Annual Meeting, 4/26/20, and 5/3/20 Congregational Meeting Minutes

Bill Carlstrom moved, and Evelyn Smith seconded to approve the minutes.

Outgoing board secretary Jerry Bushnell proposed an addendum to document the final vote on the Holly House sale. The addendum was: "On May 16th, 2020, the results of the vote on Holly House were released, the vote was 133 votes for the Isola Homes offer, and 122 votes for the LifeWire offer. "

The minutes and addendum were approved by acclamation, with no objections.

Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loan Authorization:

Marcy Langrock, board treasurer moved, and Jerry Bushnell, board secretary, seconded the following motion: "In accordance with East Shore Unitarian Church's bylaws Article 6, section A6, that the congregation approve the application and acceptance of \$142,201 from the Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Program as authorized by the US Cares Act, which is a loan program at 1% interest with 6 month deferment and two year repayment, with the understanding and intention to apply for the loan forgiveness process as outlined by the Small Business Administration."

Comments in discussion:

- When does the process for loan forgiveness begin? Board treasurer Marcy Langrock replied that we can apply quite early. The restrictions were recently loosened, so we are waiting for this to be fleshed out. We will apply shortly.
- Is the forgiveness related to retaining staff for this period of time or are there are there other requirements for loan forgiveness? Marcy noted that retaining staff for an 8-week period is required. Our 8-week period is from 4/27 to 6/22.
- One congregant has trouble with the church taking federal money. We are a fairly wealthy church using money that was intended for business that are really on the edge.

- A member of the financial stewardship committee thinks it is a good thing to apply for this loan, even if we cannot have it forgiven. The member also thanked Jason and Marcy for the work they have put into this.
- One member appreciates getting the loan and asks about potential forgiveness and payback. Marcy notes that we expect the loan to be forgiven. Even if we had to repay, it could be over 10 years.
- One member asked how long until we see the money from the sale of Holly House, and why do we feel we need this money? She is also concerned about taking money from organizations that need it more than we do. Marcy notes that the time before receiving Holly House money will be about 18 months. Marcy appreciates the discomfort, and notes that we have people we employ, and without this money, we may have had to reduce employee time, or even do layoffs. Dennis notes that there is no guarantee that the Holly House sale will go through.
- Another member notes that the loan is specifically for salaries. Marcy notes that 75% of the loan must go to salaries and benefits.

Dennis asked if there are any objections to general consent. There were objections, so vote was taken.

Results: For 131, against 7, the motion passed

Approval of 2020-21 Operating Budget

Mike Radow moved, and Mark Norelius seconded that the budget proposed in the notice of meeting be approved.

Discussion:

- One member commended Marcy and Jason for all the hard work they put in and feels that it is a good budget. The goal of the endowment draw was an investment for growth. The member pointed out that we really need a growth plan, otherwise the endowment will just be used for operating funds.
- Reverend Steve noted that he has several pages of growth plan in his annual report. He noted that at the end of February the pandemic shut everything down. We are learning how to do this in a new way.

Bill Carlstrom called the question

Vote: for 127, against 0, the budget motion passed

Election of 2020–21 Officers, Board of Trustees, & Nominating Committee Members:

Mark Norelius moved, and Paul Buehrens seconded that the slate of candidates for the board, its officers and the nominating committee posted in the official notice of the annual meeting be approved.

Dennis asked if anyone objects to general consent, there were no objections.
The motion passed unanimously.

Installation of new and continuing officers and Board: Mike Radow read the incoming officer's part and Dennis Fleck read the congregation's part of the responsive reading installing the incoming officers. Dennis handed off the presidency to Mike Radow

Mike gave us words as incoming president. He thanked us for passing the budget. He then thanked each of the outgoing board members. He was especially appreciative of Dennis Fleck's work as president and of his mentorship.

Closing Words – Done by Reverend Steve

The meeting was adjourned. 12:29 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Bushnell
Outgoing Board Secretary