**UVC Annual Membership Meeting via Zoom**

**March 21, 2021 - Noon**

Prior to the official start of the meeting, Rev. Brandon Nagel announced that the meeting would be recorded. He asked that everyone stay “muted” on Zoom unless they were speaking.

**Welcome, Introduction of Board of Trustees, and Acknowledgements**

The meeting was called to order by the Board of Trustees (BOT) President, Anna Griesbach, at 12:04 p.m.

Rev. Brandon led a prayer to start the meeting.

Anna welcomed all present and reminded attendees to stay “muted” unless speaking.

Anna introduced the BOT members: Linda Chappell (Vice President), Keith Wilson (Treasurer), Patrice Bryant (Secretary), Diane Wilks, Dennis Smith, Rev. Mark Fuss (Unity World Headquarters representative), and Rev. Erin McCabe (Senior Minister).

Anna thanked the groups Men of Unity and Sisters of Myrtle Fillmore for their support through this past year. Anna gave a special thank you to the “Silent Workers” who provided meals, prayers, and support in various ways during the pandemic.

**Approval of 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes**

Anna introduced the BOT Secretary, Patrice Bryant.

Patrice Bryant requested that the consensus be that we waive the reading of the June 2020 Annual Meeting minutes due to the fact a copy of the minutes where provided electronically and on the Unity Village Chapel website to members prior to the meeting, and that we approve the June 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes. Anna announced that there had been a request for a motion by oral acclamation and asked if there was a second. Ronna Gjesfjeld seconded the motion. Anna called for an oral vote by acclimation (all in favor say “Aye” and all opposed say “Nay”) and the motion was approved.

**Election Section**

Anna introduced Linda Chappell to read the section of the by-laws about the nominating team.

Linda read that the purpose of the Nominating Team as outlined in our by-laws, **Section 6.10B**.

“This team …

* forms prior to the annual meeting
* discusses possible candidates and review applications
* consists of the senior minister & 3 registered members”

Linda then invited **Roary Hutt**, the Nominating Team Chair, to continue.

Roary announced that the members of the 2020 Nominating Team were: Ronna Gjesfjeld, Linda Chappell, Rev Erin McCabe, and himself.

As chairperson of the team, Roary acknowledged the following two members as candidates for the Unity Village Chapel Board of Trustees: **Nina Brown and Heather Lawson**.

Roary informed attendees that Nina’s and Heather’s video biographies were included on the Chapel website and in a previous mailing sent out to all members.

Annaacknowledged BOT Secretary to read the portion of the by-laws on the certification of candidates*.*

Patrice read the following on the **Certification of Candidate(s)** per the Chapel by-laws –***Section 6.10 Nomination & Elections,*** which states…

“Any person elected to the Board of Trustees must be a registered member of Unity Village Chapel who:

* Desires to serve on the Board
* Endeavors to live in accord with the Jesus Christ principles of love & truth as taught by Unity
* Furthers the work of this minister through their active interest, love, & financial support
* Is a sincere & continuing student of Unity, conversant with its teachings
* Has demonstrated leadership capabilities”

Patrice announced that the candidates, **Nina Brown and Heather Lawson**, presented by the Nominating Team, were deemed qualified at least 10 days prior to the annual meeting.

Roary announced that, owing to the fact that there were 2 candidates to fill 2 openings on the Board of Trustees, the Nominating team requested a motion to approve the candidates by an oral vote by acclamation.

Anna said, “There has been a request for a motion by oral acclamation, do I have a second? There was a second, then Anna said, “All in favor say ‘Aye’ and all opposed say ‘Nay’ and then called for vote oral vote by acclamation. The motion was approved.

Anna then welcomed Nina Brown and Heather Lawson to the board and asked if they would like to say something. Heather said, “Thanks! I’m so excited to start!” Nina said, “I second what Heather said and Happy Birthday to Heather!” Nina said she was looking forward to “serving this BOT with love!”

**Election of 2021 Nominating Team**

Anna announced that it was time to elect the 2021 Nominating Team member, then opened up the floor for nominations from members. Jodi Voss nominated Lynn Boots to be the 2021 Nominating Team member. Lynn Boots said that she was willing to serve in this capacity. Anna asked if there were any other nominations and mentioned that one could nominate themselves. There were no further nominations, so Lynn Boots became the 2021 Nominating Team Member. Anna thanked Lynn for being willing to serve in this way.

Debra Powell volunteered to be the Nominating Team Alternate, in the event that Lynn is not available. Anna thanked Debra for being willing to serve in this way.

**Acknowledgement**

Anna acknowledged Jenny Kelliker for serving as the Financial Guru for UVC during the past year.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Keith Wilson introduced himself and then said that, “2020 has given us an abundance of lessons for ourselves and our growth - how we can have community even when we can’t meet in-person!”

Keith said that sustained regular automatic giving increased to 45% of all giving!

Keith informed attendees that the total UVC income for 2020 was $247,696.74. The total expenses were $230,050.76, thus the net income for 2020 was $17,645.98.

Keith said the 2020 closing balance for liabilities and equity was $282,392.

Anna asked if there were any questions for Keith. There were none.

**Membership**

Annaacknowledged BOT Secretary to read by-laws on certification of membership

Patrice read, **“Article IV – Membership Section 4.02 Certification of Membership Item B:**

Members with a record of giving annually will be considered active and automatically re-certified annually.  Other members will be notified by email and/or postal mail of any proposed change to membership status and be given the opportunity to appeal.”

Anna said, “UVC wants to be ‘self-sustaining.’ Last year, one third of our membership did not financially contribute. UVC will be sending out email notifications if you were part of this 1/3. When you receive this notification, please consider contributing to UVC. $10 a week or $10 a month will help! If we each gave, think of all the good that could be done! Thank you to all of you who give financially!”

**President’s Report**

Anna said, “What a year for growth! What Blessings! We renewed connections – with nature, with UVC on-line, with family, with new members, with small groups, and during the outdoor Advent service with music by Steve Epley, John Fry, Krazy Karl and Rev. Erin and with remarkable messages from Rev. Brandon and Rev. Erin. We have been truly blessed! There were blessings we don’t see, but feel: awakening students of universal truths of love and kindness. We learned more about self and fellows as we slowed down and dreamed – to no longer take simple things for granted, like handshakes, hugs, and being in the presence of others. How precious these things are! Will we always understand the whys? No! The BOT has remained steadfast in staying virtual, and it has not always been easy.”

Anna continued, “During the months of April and May we are planning some gatherings outdoors – these may or may not be on Sunday. June 6, 2021 is the date set for our projected reopening of in-person Sunday Services.”

Anna thanked everyone for the great year and quoted Charles Fillmore, “I fairly sizzle with zeal to do the things which are to be done by me.” Anna said, “Thank you! Much love and many blessings! We continue this journey together in community. It’s so much better when we do it together!”

**Minister’s Report**

Anna introduced Rev. Erin McCabe, who began her report by acknowledging everyone present, “You are seen, you are honored, here where spiritual communities are more important than ever! Ministry Team, we see you and bless you and thank you for rolling with the changes with grace and flexibility! Thank you! We hope you’ve found yourselves nurtured – our priority was connection! Thanks to all who made check-in calls! The prayer team went through extensive training. There was an incredible expansion of this prayer ministry, with members in Blue Springs, Missouri; Detroit, Michigan; and Georgia.”

Rev.Erin thanked Anna for her presence and brains. She thanked Patrice for stepping onto the BOT and filling in at the Secretary position. Rev. Erin thanked Linda – “You’ve been a Rock Star for six years on the BOT.” Rev. Erin said that a BOT Emeritus position has been established to allow former BOT members to continue serving once they step off the board, and Linda will be the first BOT Emeritus member. Rev. Erin said she “deeply appreciates the Man Team that she works with every Sunday – Rev. Brandon, Steve Epley (thanks for tithing your time and talent in sharing your music every Sunday), and Matthew Crane (who always shows up and relieves stress on me by making sure the livestream works and editing the video and posting it on the website).” Rev. Erin said that Matthew is so consistent and that he went ‘above and beyond’ by purchasing storage for UVC, and by making a video of Baby Georgia moments. Roary Hutt joined the Sunday morning team, helping with Zoom, and Judi Estes monitors Zoom and Facebook during Sunday service, looking for and responding to prayer requests. Rev. Erin thanked Roary Hutt, Ronna Gjesfjeld, and Linda Chappell for their work on the Nominating Team since December 2020. Rev. Erin then thanked everyone who helped make the Advent gathering in the parking lot a success. Rev. Erin thanked Ann Fitzgerald and Jodi Voss for supporting the homeless in Kansas City by staging several collections and delivering the collected goods. UVC also tithed support to Unity of Southeast in support of their work to feed the hungry of our area. Rev. Erin thanked one of our newest volunteers, Kelly S., who creates memes and video clips for UVC. Rev. Erin thanked Derk Montgomery, from Ohio, who supports UVC by posting on the UVC Community Facebook page. Rev. Erin thanked Ann Fitzgerald, who volunteers her time working on the UVC Breeze program and for taking good care of Georgia so that Rev. Erin can get UVC work done. Rev. Erin thanked the women and men of the Sisters of Myrtle Fillmore and the Men of Unity, who have been so supportive of UVC during the pandemic.

Rev. Erin acknowledged everyone who has contributed financially this year. In so many ways, we’ve been tested. “What we give to, we keep alive!” Rev. Erin also thanked everyone who used Amazon Smile when they bought items through Amazon – that also helped us financially. Rev. Erin said that we honor Dorothy Ginski, who entered her freedom form and left a bequest of her home proceeds to UVC. Joan Mellor has been helping with the real estate aspects of this donation, and Rev. Erin acknowledged Joan’s help as well. Rev. Erin blessed another family who donated their home and the results from the sale of their home to bless UVC. Rev. Erin also thanked another family, who takes distributions from their savings each year, and contributes that to UVC. One contribution can really help UVC! Rev. Erin thanked all of the generous givers and tithers – thank you so much, especially during this year. Rev. Erin reported that UVC was very blessed to receive an $18,500 loan which was forgiven (doesn’t have to be paid back). Rev. Erin said that UVC ended this year in the positive, partially due to Jenny Kelliker resigning her full-time position and UVC not filling the full-time Director of Operations vacancy – which was a big savings. Jenny Kelliker volunteered to do the financials during March 2020 through February 2021, then came onboard as a paid part-time employee to do the financials in March 2021. Rev. Erin reported that up to 2/3 of our members are contributing financially to UVC. That means that about 1/3 of our members don’t contribute monetarily and UVC’s vision of having everyone contribute in some way – even if only $1 or $5 or $10 per week or month. UVC membership is optional, but when you are a member, you say, “This is my home!”

Rev. Erin announced that UVC will soon have a new intern, Sonja Mathis, who will be here April through June 2021.

Rev. Erin thanked all for showing up in the Zoom rooms this past year. She thanked all small group leaders, and Judi Estes for supporting UVC.

Rev. Erin said, “Greetings to all of our live-streamers! UVC had more new members in this last “class” from out-of-state than we had from the local community. UVC is committed to continue to make virtual services available with Zoom Room hosts during Sunday services after we get back to in-person services. Thank-you, live-streamers, for being here!”

Rev. Erin asked all attendees who had used the Prayer Wall to raise their hands. Rev. Erin asked that attendees continue to use the Prayer Wall to ask for prayer and to indicate that you are praying with others in UVC. Rev. Erin thanked Rev. Brandon for becoming so tech-savvy and helping set up the UVC app.

Rev. Erin asked attendees to raise their hands if they attended small groups this year; to raise their hands if they participated in the talks after Sunday service via Zoom; to raise their hands if the Sunday talks helped; to raise their hands if small groups supported you; to raise your hands I your heart was touched and opened, or if you had a tragedy or asked for prayer support; and to raise your hand if this community helped you grow, in spite of the craziness this year. Rev. Erin thanked everyone – “From my heart to your heart – Thank You!”

**More Acknowledgements and an Announcement**

Anna thanked Rev. Erin and Rev. Brandon. Anna then thanked Rev. Mark Fuss for his help this past year. Anna then asked the attendees if they had any questions for the Board of Trustees. (No one had questions.) Anna announced that “we’ll stay until Rev. Brandon stops the Zoom session.” Anna then thanked all for attending (there were 45 attendees). “We have proven that we can make connections across the airwaves.”

**Closing Prayer**

Judi Estes, Licensed Unity Teacher and Prayer Chaplin, lead the group in a closing prayer, commenting that “we moved from ‘what was’ to ‘what was possible’. Judi mentioned that, “the strength of this community comes from connections." Judi lead us in sending appreciation to Rev. Erin and Rev. Brandon and to the Board of Trustees; and in sending appreciation to our new BOT members: Nina and Heather, and to Lynn Boots and Debra Powell, who said “Yes” to being on the Nominating Team. Judi said, “Breathe into our goal of being financially viable through 100% giving with ease,” and “allow the opportunity for people to give their gifts to UVC, and that we receive their gifts with appreciation.” Judi continued, thanking “our leaders who had our safety in mind, following science and safety in setting our reopening date of June 6. The Spirit has no boundaries of time or space. How blessed we are to be together by Divine appointment to support each other this past year.”

**Meeting Closure**

Anna thanked Judi for the closing prayer.

Anna closed the Annual Membership Meeting at 12:58 p.m.

Anna and Rev. Erin thanked all for attending.

Anna announced that the floor was open for questions. Mary Lou Cupp asked for more information about the Gatherings (one or more) that would happen prior to the June 6 reopening indoors. Anna said that the gatherings would be outside in April and/or May. They would not be on Sunday. A chance for UVC to come together in-person outside – masked and socially distanced.