

Unity Church of Clearwater, Annual Meeting Minutes, February 28, 2021

This Annual Meeting is conducted by Zoom during the usual Social Time following the Sunday service by Zoom on this date. Two Members of our Ministry Team (The Reverends Judy Tafelski and Rob Hammock) have volunteered to proofread these minutes for review by the Board of Directors. Annual Meeting materials were distributed by prior email for our currently active and voting members.

Present by Zoom: Co-Presidents of Leadership and Community Development, Grant Dansby and Ed Marinacci (presiding); President of Prosperity / Treasurer, Sylvia Alvarez; President of Communications / Secretary, Mary Haviland; President of Service, Don Simon; President of Hospitality, Deb Larkin; and Senior Minister, The Reverend Dr. Leddy Hammock; Financial Manager, Maria DeRee, and our full Ministry Team: The Reverends Randy Schmelig, Rob Hammock, Judy Tafelski, Magie Cook, Cynthia Mackey and Sue Riley and Prayer Chaplain, Mary MacKenzie.

Co-President of Leadership Development, Grant Dansby, introduced himself and welcomed all participants to the 2021 Annual Meeting of the not-for-profit corporation, Unity-Clearwater, Inc., also known as Unity Church of Clearwater, noting that, although only voting members can actively participate in this meeting, all are welcome to attend; he then invited Co-President of Leadership, Ed Marinacci, to welcome us with an opening prayer including the invocation by Cofounder of the Unity movement, Charles Fillmore.

Grant Dansby noted that links to our Church Mission Statement, Vision Statement, UCC Church history, last year's Annual Meeting minutes, the required section of our Bylaws for review, along with an agenda for this meeting were all published to our full mailing list, beginning last month, and have been viewable online. Financial reports have been sent by mail or email to all active voting members who requested them and links to the material appear on the chat space for participants.

As per our agenda, Ed Marinacci called for a brief Spiritual Baptism blessing for the membership to be led by our Sr. Minister, in accordance with our UCC Bylaws. Ed Marinacci noted that a specially engraved brick has been ordered for our Prayer Walk in honor of retiring Board Member, Grant Dansby, in appreciation for lovingly serving a full term on our Board and also in honor of the two new members of our Ministry Team appointed by our Senior Minister in accord with our Bylaws and ordained and installed at the worship service just this morning: The Reverend Cynthia Mackey, Minister of Education and The Reverend Susan Riley, Minister of Music. He then turned the meeting over to Co-President, Grant Dansby.

Grant Dansby noted that, as only affirmative responses were received, to date, in regard to the approval of last year's minutes, without any correction or addition by active voting members (nor any others), he declared that the 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes as approved by the voting members present and participating be so noted in our Annual Minutes.

Ed Marinacci noted that a summary of our Treasurer's Report and detailed Financial Reports for 2020 have been supplied upon request to active voting members of UCC. As, to date, there have been no inquiries, dissenting, or correcting comments from responding active voting members (nor others), he called for this 2020 Financial Report to be filed on behalf of the corporation, adding that further inquiry and questions can always be submitted to our Board of Directors by any active and voting member of UCC and our Board will always respond. It is further noted that the Board of Directors is empowered to call for a regular review of the Church accounts by a Certified Public Accountant and/or to invite active voting members with experience in accounting to serve on a yearly Accounting Review Team to assure that all is in good order. He expressed gratitude for the wise counsel of member, Owen

Cook and CPA, Steven Regier, Chief Financial Officer of Kearney Medical Center. He noted that our Financial Manager would welcome other experienced volunteers to review our systems at their earliest convenience to assist the Accounting Review Team this year.

Grant Dansby noted that as our Bylaws call for Section 5, Article IV of the Bylaws, regarding the election of Board members, to be shared for review, this section has been shared through our enews. On behalf of Karen Erickson, who was appointed Chair of the current Nominating Committee by the two other committee members: Representative of the Congregation, Sue Hammock, elected at last year's meeting, and Deb Larkin who was pleased to serve as the Representative of the Board, Grant Dansby announced the candidates of this year's Nominating Committee: Ed Marinacci (who has just completed a partial term and is now eligible to serve a full term) and Patricia Warren (a returning member of the Board). Inasmuch as no other nominations were received as of ninety days prior to this meeting, and only affirmations of these nominations were received by active voting members (or others) since their introductions and photos were shared by enews since last month, he therefore called for the recording of a unanimous acceptance of these candidates to a new term on our Board of Directors and welcomed the new candidates to the next meeting of our Board of Directors as scheduled by Zoom on Wednesday, March 31 at 8 pm.

Ed Marinacci stated that, in these unusual circumstances, he announced on behalf of our Board of Directors their unanimous nomination of Jeff Jones as the Congregation's Representative to this year's Nominating Committee and that Jeff Jones has accepted this nomination, which is welcomed by all of our responding active voting members. He added that our Board Member, Deb Larkin, has volunteered to represent our Board of Directors along with the Congregation's Representative to select a third member (Karen Erickson volunteered for consideration) to act as Chair of the Nominating Committee before next year's Annual Meeting and thereafter to nominate two new candidates for three year terms on the Board. There being no further business before the voting membership, Ed Marinacci then declared this Annual Meeting concluded with a brief message and closing prayer by our Senior Minister on the occasion of her fortieth anniversary of leadership at Unity Church of Clearwater, the House Built on Love.

Leddy Hammock greeted the congregation and reminded the membership of last year's motion, unanimously affirmed, as follows: 'We, the voting membership of UCC, do hereby confirm our shared intention to continue to uphold the autonomy of the corporation, Unity-Clearwater, Inc., also known as Unity Church of Clearwater, as conceived in the original and subsequently revised Articles of Incorporation in 1958, now in place, and as continuously refined according to the Bylaws currently affirmed by the democratic process of the voting membership of our Church home.' She added that this congregation has done well as good and faithful servants of the Most High. In behalf of our Ministry Team and Board of Directors, she thanked everyone for their loving kindness and faithful service, affirming the loving responsiveness of our Board to our membership and closing with this blessing: *"Let us now go forth in peace, making peace, living gently, loving mightily, ever grateful for the unlimited blessings of the Most High – one for all and all for one in 2021! Peace be with us all. We give thanks and praise as we declare that there is only one Presence and one Power, everywhere and always--God, the good, omnipotent, and God is love. In our Unity of purpose, we are guided by infinite wisdom, renewed by abundant life, and prospered by Divine Love. And so it is. Until we meet again on Zoom, God is with us!"*

Submitted with blessings, Leddy Hammock, Acting Secretary of the Board of Directors

Copied to Ministry Team Members, The Reverend Judy Tafelski and The Reverend Rob Hammock, for proofreading, as noted, and reviewed by the Board of Directors (see March minutes of the Board).