

Decorah ❖ Unitarian ❖ Universalist ❖ Fellowship

Sunday, May 3, 2020

Gathering virtually since 2020!

www.decorahuu.org

Otter Dreaming, Fellowship Coordinator

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Decorah UU Annual Meeting

1. (Brief Service with Nancy Barry) – 30 adults, 27 members, 2 guests (+ Otter)
2. **Call to Order** – After the short service, Matthew Alexander, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:22 a.m.
3. **Approval of 2019 Minutes** – Discussion: Julie Fischer requested that new members be mentioned by name in the Membership report. There was some confusion as it was clarified that new members are, in fact, mentioned in the Membership report, just not in the minutes themselves. Carolyn Corbin moved and Nancy Barry seconded to approve the previous year's annual meeting minutes. The motion carried as Fellowship members raised their virtual Zoom hands or voted via audio-only.
4. **Approval of Agenda** – Matthew Alexander called for additions to the agenda. There were none. Carolyn Corbin moved and Maggie Hayden seconded that that agenda be approved. The motion carried.
5. **Review and acceptance of reports**
 - a) **Board of Trustees Chair** – Matthew Alexander expressed his appreciation for members of the Board and Fellowship. He thanked those who have continued to plan our services and keep the Fellowship running, especially Karen Esterl, Sue Otte, Ellen Macdonald, Beth Wahlberg and Carolyn Corbin. He thanked Bill Pardee, the previous Board Chair, for getting us into the Lingonberry.
 - b) **Sunday Services Committee** – Karen Esterl noted that core committee members have been Ellen Macdonald, Sue Otte and Karen herself. Ellen has stepped back from the committee already and Sue will do so this summer. Karen mentioned the challenges of both planning and meeting virtually. She pointed out that the Fellowship has purchased the UU supplemental hymnal and has incorporated land acknowledgements in the order of service. She thanked service leaders for their participation in the midst of the new virtual challenges.
 - c) **Membership Committee** – Detra Dettmann noted that four new members joined the Fellowship during the year: Carrie Newman, Paige Murphy, Steven Grove and Lyra McKnight. Detra also mentioned the slight increase in guest attendance this year over last year.
 - d) **OWL Program** – Lara Martinsen-Burrell reported that the program has a new K-6 instructor: Sandhya Caton. The spring class couldn't happen, and there is a waiting list for the 4-6 grade level. Conversation continues about the possibility of a Luther class for young adults. A curriculum may be available now for older populations.

Matthew Alexander moved and Carolyn Corbin seconded that the reports be accepted. The motion carried.
6. **Financial report & FY 2020-21 Budget** – Beth Wahlberg, Decorah UU Treasurer, gave the Financial Report, noting a small discrepancy in the addition of some Paypal donations. The Fellowship did not have to use savings to get through the past year. Beth reported that, in general, the Fellowship was on track with revenue & expenses. At this time during the pandemic, we are paying ½ of our rent at Lingonberry to help with utilities and to keep our contract. There is a small balance in our memorial fund with which Beth proposed we buy more hymnals in Sara Corbin's name. Beth thanked Tom Wahlberg and Carl Peterson for their help with Decorah UU financial matters. Carolyn Corbin moved and Ellen Macdonald seconded that the Financial Report be accepted. The motion carried.

7. **Election Items**

- a) **Board Member Election** (vote for three) – Carolyn Corbin moved and Carol Hagen seconded that all three nominees be accepted at once. The motion carried. (All ayes; no nays.)
 - 1. Matthew Alexander
 - 2. Julie Ohde
 - 3. Lynn Pleggenkuhle
 - b) **Members of the Nominating Committee** (vote for two) – Beth Wahlberg moved and Carolyn Corbin seconded that the full slate of nominees be approved. The motion carried. (All ayes; no nays.)
 - 1. Lalie Madriguera
 - 2. Janet Snider
8. **Discussion** – Fellowship members and Committee members discussed how to proceed with remote services, including: casual Sundays (less planning); breakout groups (less formal, less planning); alternating degrees of planning from Sunday to Sunday (by topic, then by Circle); being careful to not overload certain people with certain tasks; how long remote services might be necessary; following a science-led perspective; how much more work it is to prepare for a remote service rather than an in-person service. Carolyn Corbin offered to train people on Zoom and to continue offering a Zoom version of services after in-person gatherings resume so that people have a choice. Carol Hagen moved that services be scheduled only every other Sunday June through August, with a review of how it's going at the end of July. Jean Daywitt seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Approved by Ayes; no nays; one abstention.)
9. **Adjournment** – Matthew Alexander moved and Lara Martinsen-Burrell seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 11:33 a.m. with the Chalice being extinguished to complete the morning's service.

Respectfully submitted by

Otter Dreaming

Decorah UU Fellowship Coordinator