**TWO THOUSAND TWENTY THREE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP BUSINESS MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 5, 2023**

**MINUTES FROM BUSINESS MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 6, 2022**

Board President, David Mitchell, called to order the Annual Business Meeting of Unity Church of Christianity, Valley Stream, New York at 12:47 PM. Rev. Charles Foley led the congregation in an opening prayer. The following documents were emailed: the minutes from the February 6, 2021 Annual meeting, the 2021 accountant financial report and the 2021 monthly log.

The first order of business was the Roll Call of those in the sanctuary and those on Zoom. There were 22 members and 1 non-member in attendance for a total of 23 in-person attendees. There were 7 members and 2 non-members on Zoom for a total of 9 Zoom attendees. This number represents a quorum for the transaction of further business.

The second order of business was the consideration of the minutes from last year’s meeting. As there were no additions or corrections, the President called for a motion to accept the minutes. Lorraine Reddy made the motion and it was seconded by Norris Shears. All were in favor.

The next order of business was the approval of the log for 2021. As there were no additions or corrections, the President called for a motion to accept the log for 2021. Joan Shears made the motion and it was seconded by Eric Greene. All were in favor.

**The Board President introduced Mike Terry, our Investment Advisor**, for an update on the Schwab Investment account for 2021. MIke was on Zoom due to a mix up and was auditorily piped into the sanctuary. Mike began his presentation extending his deep apology for not being physically present and was glad we were able to make arrangements for him to join us via Zoom. Last year was a very good year. The year started off with $453,050.43 with $45,000 withdrawn for needed projects. There was a period investment gain of over $67,000. The year end amount was $473,366.44. That was a 15.21% increase over the year prior. In the first quarter, the outlook is not too good. There have been some pretty poor days in the market recently and Mike surmised that it’s a reaction to the inflation we’re experiencing and the turmoil in the world with Russia and Ukraine. COVID -19 is still a concern. The viewpoint of many economists is that the first quarter is going to be pretty shaky, but then the rest of the year should be fine. The positive is that the jobs report is good with tremendous job growth and the Feds didn’t raise interest rates. The Feds are expected to do something this year but with this being an election year, Mike doesn't think they’re going to do much. Unity’s 2022 outlook is still pretty bullish; potentially we won’t make it up to a 15% increase. Unity may see an increase of somewhere between 8 and 10% on average this year. Unity’s portfolio is sound and well diversified. 2022 will be a pretty good year. Mike asserted he was happy to take any questions.

The President asked if there were any questions for Mike; there were no questions therefore Mike was thanked for his presentation. Mike again apologized for being absent and clarified that the annual meeting is always the first Sunday in February of which he will make a note for next year's meeting.

**The Board President introduced Lori Wilson, from AB Cookler**

Lori greeted the congregation offering sentiments that all have been safe and healthy during another trying and difficult year. Lori is the CPA who prepares the Unity financials all year. There was a definite improvement in 2021 versus 2020. Overall, there was an excess of support and revenue over expenses by about 62,000 which was double the amount in 2020, which was only 31,000. The increase was due to a combination of more support from the weekly and special contributions. As Mike stated, there was a significant gain on our investments. The interest in dividend revenue was up about 1000. The special projects completed during 2021 included a new roof, new gutters, and a meditation garden. Lori asserted she’s hoping for a better 2022 and asked if there were any questions on any of the financial statements. There were no questions. The President thanked Lori for her presentation.

T**he next order of business is the report from Stephen Senior, our IT, Property and Business Manager.** Stephen began his presentation acknowledging that this is his 10th year with Unity and thanked all for this opportunity. He noted that streaming a speaker into the sanctuary was a historical moment for the church and expressed his pride in that accomplishment. There was no projector or PowerPoint presentation as in the past 9 years because of the blended meeting format. Stephen asserted his report was simple.

1. Property issues were identified. The past nine years the church had been battling maintenance from the cold pipes, and freezing boiler. In addition to the sanctuary and activity center roofs being changed out, the meditation garden was redesigned. Watering issues with the new garden revealed corroded pipes that lead to the water main being changed 2-3 weeks ago. Prior to this change, Rev Charles was manually watering the garden.
2. Acknowledgement of the redesign of the church’s website.
3. The capital projects funds come out of the investment account. Over the last 10 years, all of the repairs and replacements have the church caught up and prepared for the future.
4. The gala was a huge success. We have to take into account we pay for the gala a year ahead, putting a down payment to hold the date. Expenses appear low because we've paid for it in 2020.
5. The huge spikes in expenses are either going to be the website, the actual roof, or the meditation garden.
6. Major projects in the last 10 years are now in maintenance mode. Everything is new and up to code.
7. LED light fixtures were changed out to keep our electric bill down.

Stephen asked if there were any questions, and the only question came from Mike Terry wanting to know whether he needed money. Stephen shared that he didn't need any money at this point, but it was mentioned that at some point the church may need LED screens in the future.

The president thanked Stephen for his report. David shared that the hybrid service model has presented specific problems visually and auditorily. The major concerns are the poor grainy picture quality and the poor sound quality on Zoom. The Board is looking into resources to replace the camera and to improve the sound quality. The Board is in the process of looking for a technician to run the wires and install the cameras. David made a plea to the congregation to share information if they know technicians that can assist the church in this area. David shared that he did not enjoy singing in this present format because his sound was being distorted.

Stephen shared that the online Ministry in which Unity Valley Stream has started is going to stay. Stephen feels the church has been doing a phenomenal job with what we have to work with. Once you open the door you can't close the door to technology. Technology has taken over Unity in every shape, form and fashion. It's going to be uncomfortable but understand that after the storm comes the calm. Unity has a digital ministry.

The President thanked Stephen for his additional comments and thanked the AV team’s two new members Janie Marie Manigaut and Ian Foley. David is stepping away from the AV team and Vivien is now the person to direct any questions or concerns to.

**Next order of business is a report from Willie Stewart, Nominating Committee**

Willie Stewart, before presenting his report, wanted to salute Stephen Senior for his ingenuity and creativity. It’s because of him that we utilize Zoom. When the pandemic hit, the church was closed and as a result we were able to continue to have our services through Zoom thanks to Stephen. The Nominating committee for 2022 consisted of:

Rev. Charles, Minister

Willie Stewart, Nominating Committee Chairperson

Vivien Mott, Board Representative

Paulette Samuels, Congregational Representative

The President thanked Willie Stewart and the nominating committee.

The President stated that after canvassing the congregation, three applications were forwarded to the Board of Directors. After reviewing the applications and conducting interviews, the following candidates were selected: Ellen Davis, Burnette Rahmaan and Elaine Rauch.

Generally there are only two candidates but unfortunately Leigh is no longer with us on the Board; David and Arthur’s terms are up. We looked for four members, we were able to get three candidates, and Eric volunteered to stay on for one more year.

All were in favor of Ellen Davis, Burnette Rahmaan and Elaine Rauch’s nominations to the board for the term of 2022 to 2025. There were all Ayes with no Nays or Abstentions.

The President presented the new business.

The current Board of Directors met, and in accordance with our By-laws, section 4.07, elected the following officers for the year February 2022 to February 2023:

President Vivien Mott

Vice President Ellen Davis

Secretary Burnette Rahmaan

Treasurer Eric Greene

Directors Rosita Dessources and Elaine Rauch

The meeting was then turned over to the new President Vivien Mott.

The first order of business is the review of Rev Charles’ ministerial contract. Congregants are asked to forward any concerns or comments to the Board of Directors either in a sealed envelope placed in the Book Room or directly emailed to the President at [vivien.mott@unityvalleystream.net](mailto:vivien.mott@unityvalleystream.net).

The President thanked all those that have served. There was an honorable mention of Leigh Zsadanyi and all of her talents and treasures that were shared with our church. May she continue to rest in power. Thank you to Arthur HIll for his involvement in numerous aspects of our church- choir member, board member, book club, and fellowship team leader. Much gratitude for his dedication and support of the board for the past three years. David Mitchell was thanked for his tireless commitment to the board. It was shared that he has guided the Board since 2014 through ministerial changes, garage building, garden and patio designing, roofing, new church sign, revamping our website, the house and sanctuary renovations & cleansing, COVID, Zoom, and galas. At the last Board meeting, a new title was created for David given his valuable experience and expertise- Chairman Emeritus. This new title means we can still tap into his knowledge base and that he’ll still be readily available to assist us.

David Mitchell had parting remarks. He shared that the church is precious to him and that he enjoyed his experience working for the church. He stated his love and dedication to the congregants and thanked all for allowing him to serve even beyond his time to serve. He made an impassioned plea for congregants to get involved.

The President invited the Current Board Members - Ellen Davis, Rosita Dessources, Eric Greene, Burnette Rahmaan,and Elaine Rauch to the platform.

Unfinished business- None

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Paulette Samuels and seconded by Mercedes Mitchell. All in favor.

The President invites the minister to the platform for a closing blessing.

Meeting adjourned at 1:37 PM

The President thanked all for attending the meeting both in person and on Zoom and she thanked Tatianna Mott for her remote assistance with Zoom.

*Submitted Vivien P. Mott*