

UUCC Annual Meeting Minutes: May 19, 2019

UUCC Board Approved via Email, 2019-6-6

Board Vice President Caroljean Bongo called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm in the Sanctuary.

Reverend Hannah Villnave provided Chalice Lighting and an Annual Meeting Blessing.

QUORUM COUNT: A quorum for the purposes of this meeting was a minimum of 33 members in attendance or over 25% of the Church members. Each person in attendance were checked off on a master membership list by Church Administrator Tori Mizell as they entered the Sanctuary. Members received written copies of the agenda; a listing of nominations for Board members, Committee on Shared Ministry, and Investment Team; and a copy of the proposed budget for 2019-2020 Fiscal Year. Caroljean Bongo recognized Garth Shanklin who announced the count of 38 voting members present.

VOTE: AGENDA and MEETING MINUTES: Caroljean Bongo presented an overview of the Agenda and explained a change in the order of the agenda items. Patti Ridley made a motion to approve the agenda as modified. Robert Weinland seconded the motion and the **motion passed unanimously.**

Caroljean asked for motion to approve last year's annual business meeting minutes and the March 24, 2019 special congregational meeting minutes. Robert Weinland made motion to approve. Patti Ridley seconded. The motion to approve the minutes from both meetings **passed unanimously** by the members present.

OPENING REMARKS (PRESIDENT'S REPORT): Caroljean Bongo read the President report (Hailey T. Ellingham not present). The report begins on pg. 25 of the UUCC Annual Report. Following the reading of the report, no questions were voiced by the Members present.

LIVING GENEROUSLY UPDATE: The Committee Chair Abbey Kercher provided an update for the Living Generously Team. The other team members were Gordon Johns, Arlene Shanklin, Mike Lammers, and Sharon Kelsey. The Committee report is pg. 20 in the Annual Report. Abbey reported the total of 70 pledges received was \$151,077 with the target goal of \$175,000 set by the Finance Committee. Abbey thanked all of her Committee members.

BOARD TREASURER GARTH SHANKLIN PRESENTED THE 2019-2020 UUCC BUDGET: Garth thanked all the members of the Finance Committee and members of the Investment Committee. He also thanked Joey VanSchaik for the hundreds of volunteer hours spent completing the forensic analysis necessary following the embezzlement by the former church administrator. He also thanked Andrea Heater for all her volunteer time and thanked Joe Corrigan and Marci Linde for the very successful Service Auction. Garth then explained and answered questions about the proposed UUCC Budget in the Annual Meeting Packet available to all members.

- The church budget is in a good shape for the upcoming year.
- Current budget reflects a cost of living adjustment (COLA) that follows UUA Guidelines for all church employees.
- Church Minister's compensation includes a raise. There is a small reduction in hours affecting total compensation for some church staff.
- The program and committee funding is even with similar amounts as the current year budgets.
- Fortunately, there are no new flat roof costs in this budget.

Patti Ridley made a motion to accept the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Budget as presented. Lauren Danley seconded the motion. Caroljean asked for any discussion.

Chuck Skinner asked about the significant amount difference for the Administrator's compensation between the Approved 2018-2019 Budget and the proposed 2019-2020 Budget. Garth explained about the Church Board splitting the duties of the Administrator position with all of the bookkeeper duties being handled as a bookkeeper expense under a contract with a professional accountant or bookkeeper with professional liability insurance.

Tim Thorson asked about the handling of pledges that are received following the approval of the Budget. Garth recognized Joey VanSchaik who explained the Church would rely less on major donor gifts and it would be up to the Board's discretion. She noted that pledge money could go to Church reserves (Investment accounts) if not needed.

Kathleen Peterson asked for an explanation of what Garth had previously described as a "Rainy Day" or Sinking Fund. Garth explained that the Church did not have one but that it could be relied upon to address unexpected emergency expenses.

Following the discussion, Caroljean asked for a vote on the motion and it was **approved unanimously** by the members present.

FINANCIAL POLICY UPDATE: Caroljean thanked the Financial Policy Team for the work completed by the Committee. Committee Chair Gene Heater was not present. Other Committee Members are John Sanford, Sharon Wisroth and Garth Shanklin as Church Treasurer. John Sanford provided a verbal report. He said the committee work is just beginning and that a policy was written with guidelines describing how to create Church policies. He said the committee is looking for volunteers; particularly someone with legal background. He anticipates one year is needed to develop the policies.

PRESENTATION OF ELECTED LEADERSHIP: Caroljean recognized Rhonda Woodard with the Leadership Development Team to present new Leadership and Committee Members. Rhonda said LDT was very happy with the quality of people currently serving and new candidates for leadership and committee positions. Rhonda Woodard presented the slate of candidates for Church Year 2019-2020.

VOTE: 2019-2020 ELECTED OFFICERS:

BOARD CANDIDATES:

- President: Caroljean Bongo
- Vice President: Mike Kercher
- Treasurer: Camellia El-Antably
- Secretary: Phil Stump
- At Large: Garth Shanklin (1-year term), Robert Weinland (2-year term)

Tim Thorson moved to accept the candidates as presented. Sleeter Dover seconded this motion. The motion **passes unanimously**.

VOTE: COMMITTEE ON SHARED MINISTRY:

- Lauren Danley (2-year term)
- Birgitt Paul (2-year term)
- John Sanford (2-year term)

Camellia El-Antably moved to accept the new members of COSM. This was seconded by Mike Lammers. Motion **passed unanimously**.

VOTE: INVESTMENT TEAM:

The Investment Team slate is as follows:

- Randy Bruns (3-year term)

Caroljean moved to accept new member. This was seconded by Tim Thorson and **passed unanimously**.

NO HATE IN OUR TOWN PROPOSAL AND VOTE: Board Member Mike Kercher presented background and proposal for UUCC assistance (Attachment 1.0). Abbey Kercher also explained the proposal with Mike, Caroljean and Reverend Hannah answering questions in response to the members' questions. UUCC would be helping with facilities and support but no UUCC staff labor is included. A steering committee will have members from other groups across the local community who also share our values. The group would do merchandise fundraising with a likely celebration event held at UUCC to promote awareness and to sell the merchandise; i.e., T-shirts, buttons, etc. Stores in Cheyenne would provide sponsorship and offer discount incentives during specific days; potentially during Frontier Days for patrons wearing merchandise. Joey explained that since this is a short-time activity the Church could assist by setting up a special account like the Kiva micro-lending account was handled.

Camille Furtney made a motion that the Unitarian Universalist Church of Cheyenne act as a sponsor for No Hate In Our Town Cheyenne, and support such a campaign with the use of our facilities and equipment, and other non-monetary support as directed by the Board of Trustees. The Motion was seconded by Sleeter Dover. Caroljean announced a call for a membership vote. Written ballots were collected and counted.

**Votes: 32 yes, 3 no.
Motion is approved.**

Changes at our Church: the 2 Hour Church.

Rev. Hannah described a proposed pilot program for two hour church this coming fall. The biggest change will be the church service beginning at 10 am with a quick 15 minute snack break at 10:45 am. The nursery will be still be available for babies and toddlers/ preschoolers up to 5 years during the service. The religious education classes will begin at 11:00 am.

The rationale is to implement Adult Religious Education and Adult Faith Development. This is an area that has not really existed to this point, or at least without any true focus, commitment or plan at UUCC. A program purpose is to engage members providing both education and an opportunity of growth in an individual's spiritual practice.

The Service will be open to youth who will be encouraged to attend with the hope of young adults continuing to participate as a UU upon relocating. The pilot is planned over 3 months for September through November. The pilot trial is to evaluate the change and then assess it going forward. The church members were asked to submit a written non-anonymous comment or remaining question about the pilot program.

The meeting was called to conclusion at 2:10 PM, by Vice President Caroljean.

Phillip Stump

Respectfully submitted,
Phil Stump, Board Member

Attachment 1.0

No Hate In Our Town Informational Document

Overview:

No Hate In Our Town (NHIOT)¹ is a community movement that started in Billings, MT² when neo-nazi groups tried to make a presence locally in 1993. This same template was also used in Laramie WY when the nazi flag was raised on the UW campus in 2018.

NIHOT hopes to make an inclusive Cheyenne Community that is free of hate and intolerance. The movement values differences within all individuals and tries to educate individuals and organizations about issues relating to inclusion, diversity, and justice. This is done by building a community focused on acceptance, respect, and love. The NHIOT campaign goals are very closely aligned with our UU values and principles. This is an opportunity for the UUCC to help rebrand Cheyenne as a No Hate town and send the message that Cheyenne is inhospitable to Hate and that we embrace and welcome a full diversity of people.

The UUCC would act as a catalyst for this movement by providing assistance as detailed below. UUCC members and friends will help provide guidance and support to help work with community and business leaders to roll out a successful campaign.

Plan:

The No Hate In Our Town can be a powerful tool to combat inequality and bigotry. The minimum campaign would have the following activities:

- Step 1 - Fundraising event where NIHOT Cheyenne merchandise would be sold like bags and buttons.
- Step 2 - NHIOT day will be held where business partners offer discounts or other incentives to shoppers who have the NIHOT Cheyenne merchandise with them.

UUCC Engagement and Assistance with NIHOT:

All listed activities will be performed/overseen by volunteers within the UUCC who are members of the Church.

- Formation of a NIHOT steering committee. This committee will have members from other groups across the local community who also share our values. These groups will hopefully span the many different groups that make up Cheyenne.
- Assist in the handling of monies that will be donated directly to No Hate In Our Town. This will be directed through a NIHOT special projects fund (similar to the UUCC roof repairs) for all donations and expenses.
- Use of UUCC's facilities and equipment as approved by the Board
- No UUCC operational funds or paid staff hours would be used for the NIHOT campaign

Possible Partners:

- NAACP
- Zonta
- Wyoming Equality
- FE Warren Air Force Base
- LCSD#1 GSA Clubs

¹ <https://www.niot.org/>

² <https://www.niotbillings.org/>

- Allen Chapel (AME)
- Juntos
- Interfaith Council