

**Annual Meeting Minutes [Draft]**  
**First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh**  
**May 19, 2019**

1. Call to Order (12:17pm) (Martin Schmidt, President (2020)).
2. Board of Trustees members present: Martin Schmidt, President (2020), Alison Schwartz, Vice-President (2019); Scott Smith (2021); Eleanor Mayfield, Secretary (2021); Audrey Masalehdan (2019); Lynne Porterfield (2021); Cathy Rohrer (2019).
3. Board Members absent: Claus Makowka, Treasurer (2020); Sarah Benson (2020)
4. Staff present: Erica Shadowsong; Kris Rust
5. Establishment of quorum. A quorum of 66 members was needed. Quorum was established.
6. Welcome/Hand out question cards
7. Welcome Hymn #358, *Rank by Rank Again We Stand* (accompanied by Kris Rust).
8. Approval of 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes. (Eleanor, Board Secretary). Eleanor moved that the 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes be approved as corrected. Seconded by MR Kelsey. The minutes were approved unanimously.
9. President's Report (Martin Schmidt). See written report.
  - a. It's been a remarkable year.
  - b. We said farewell to our longtime minister, David Herndon, and to music director Emily Pinkerton, and welcomed new directors of instrumental and vocal music, Ellen Gozion and Kris Rust.
  - c. He thanked a long list of members (see report).
  - d. We are the Church; we are an intentional community.
10. LRED Report (Erica Shadowsong).
  - a. The report highlights growth.
  - b. She recognizes the RE team, with new members and new leadership.
  - c. We started a family social upstairs, which has been very successful.
  - d. She started a bi-weekly spirituality group with the young adults, and they have started to take leadership and responsibility for it.
  - e. The theme for next Fall's RE experience: Religions of the World.
  - f. We can use some help with the book store and the adult library.
  - g. She is always looking for members for the Family Ministries Team.
  - h. The Board-Staff Covenant has been very helpful for the staff.
  - i. The Pastoral Care Team has been very helpful and visible this year.
11. Music Directors' Report (Kris Rust). See report.
  - a. We have felt very supported by the Board, the Sunday Celebrations Team, and the Music and Arts Team.
  - b. Many of our groups are getting outside of our walls; this is so important.
12. Financial Report (Ward Kelsey, on behalf of Claus Makowka, Board Treasurer).
  - a. We had a good year financially. We ended up with a surplus of almost \$19,000. This includes a small amount from the Auction.

- b. We have increased non-pledge donations; we have decreased utility expenses; but increased IT/web expenses.
  - c. We donated over \$10,000 to Share the Plate activities.
  - d. In the past year, we made \$23,000 in capital improvements.
  - e. Our investments, overall, have done quite well.
  - f. The Program Endowments funded a total of \$8,500 from funding requests.
  - g. Please use Giant Eagle gift cards for grocery shopping and to buy other gift cards. The church receives 5% of the value of every gift-card purchase.
13. Interim Ministry Search Team Report (John Hooper).
- a. A final contract has been signed with the Rev. Constance (Connie) L. Grant, to serve as our Interim Minister beginning August 1, 2019. Connie has experience as both a settled minister and an interim minister.
  - b. An interim minister typically serves for 2 years, and guides us in the search for a settled minister.
14. VIM (Vision, Identity, Mission) (Cathy Rohrer). See documents sent by e-mail.
- a. We are the Church.
  - b. It is important that all parts of the church are part of the conversation.
  - c. The church is acting on concerns and ideas from the VIM sessions. The two priorities: a strong sense of belonging to all who enter our doors; and exploring paths to a long-lasting and meaningful community partnership.
  - d. The sessions are a help in community building and in appreciative inquiry.
15. Annual Reports of Committees/Teams. (Eleanor Mayfield).
- a. This is a story of a year in the life of this community. I recommend that you read it.
  - b. She thanked Joan Harvey for her help contacting church groups and reminding them to submit reports.
16. Nominating Committee Report (Gretchen Aiyangar, Nominating Committee Chair)
- a. A quorum was met. 94 members were either present or submitted absentee ballots.
  - b. Vote. New Board members 2019-2020, for 3-year terms. Nominated for Board of Trustees, term to span May 2019 to May 2022, are: Julie Downs, Ebe Emmons, Sam Hens-Greco. All candidates were elected.
  - c. Vote. New members for the Nominating Committee 2019-2020. Nominated for the Nominating Committee, term to span 2019-2022, are: Jenn Layman, Susan Regan, Michael Safran. All candidates were elected.
17. Answers to questions on index cards:
- a. What is special about the special edition of the Chalice? It is a comprehensive report of what people in the church community are doing and can do in the future.
  - b. How many members do we have?: 262 voting members.
  - c. Is it possible for the Interim Minister to become the settled minister? This is a very prescribed process. The Interim Minister cannot become the settled minister. Interim ministers are generally well-trained in the special tasks of congregations between settled ministers.
  - d. Ward: How much did the church get for selling Giant Eagle cards? \$4000.

- e. In the absence of a minister, who would thank the president of the Board of Trustees for their service for the past year? Martin is thanked.
- f. Are there a good number of applicants available for settled minister positions? We don't know at this time.
- g. What is the settled ministry process? At about 12 months, a settled ministry search team will be formed.

Closing Hymn #1, *May Nothing Evil Cross This Door*  
Benediction. (Rev. John Ballance)  
Adjournment (1:30 pm)

Respectfully submitted  
Kurt Summersgill, Recording Secretary  
Approved:  
Eleanor Mayfield, Board Secretary