

Central Union Church
Annual Meeting - Minutes
Sunday May 31, 2020

In the Middle of the Corona Pandemic
The meeting was held Electronically VIA Zoom

Zoom was initiated by Central Union Church staff but managed by Tom Kiyabu and assisted by Rev. Brandon Durán.

Invocation:

Rev. David Rivers opened the meeting with a prayer for the continued work of the Lord in this church, particularly as we face the new challenges of the year 2020.

I. Establishment of a Quorum:

Tom Kiyabu called the meeting to order. It was reported by the Staff that 134 members were present for the meeting via electronic attendance thereby establishing a quorum.

Tom Kiyabu explained that the Bylaws address specific requirements for the notice of member meetings. He explains that the notice for this meeting was properly given and then proceeded to the business of the meeting. The meeting was held to elect new Church Council members. Tom introduces the Panel of participants. Greg Sato, Parliamentarian; Rev. Brandon Durán; Martha Balkin, Council Chair nominee; Craig McGinnis, Treasurer and Treasurer nominee; and Bruce Luxton, Secretary nominee.

Tom Kiyabu explained the election format and introduced Rev. David Rivers.

Rev. David invited people to use the Q & A forum to bring their questions and ideas forward. The agenda goal is to provide updates for the congregation and to elect the new Council leaders. Rev. David explains the “raising of the hand” function that is incorporated in the Zoom program.

Greg Sato explains the process for entering a discussion. He also explains the details of how to make a motion.

Tom Kiyabu recognizes the nominees. Alexa Zen, Nomination and Governance Chair, reads the list of candidates for election:

Officers:	Term
Martha Balkin - Chair	One Year
Carl Schlack - Vice-Chair	One Year
Craig McGinnis - Treasurer	Two Years
Bruce Luxton - Secretary	Two Years

At Large Positions (class of 2023):
Maurina Ludwig
Priscilla Kesi-Tiumalu

Tom recognizes that the motion to elect these positions comes from Nominations and Governance Committee. The motion is as follows: That members of Central Union Church approve the nominated Council members and Officers for the terms described. Tom asks for discussion and questions.

II. Electronic Chat and Q and A:

- 1.) Were the names listed or posted? Yes, the names are posted in the Spire and other electronic postings. Rev. David added the list of names to the screen in real time.
- 2.) Can the unfilled At Large position be filled later? Yes.
- 3.) Is it possible to vote for individual members rather than the slate? No, the slate is presented as one slate so it is not possible to vote for or against individual for this vote.

The question is called: Rev. David takes the vote count, both yes and no votes and for abstentions. All voting took place by "raising your hand" electronically. This is an electronic hand on the zoom screen that you push to vote. Then it is cleared so that the next vote can take place.

III. Voting:

Tom Kiyabu announced that the slate is approved.

Martha Balkin is introduced as the new Council Chairperson.

Martha indicated that we are all doing our best with the current situation. The times are unprecedented. She thanked the outgoing members of the Council for their service with gratitude.

In keeping with the Annual Meeting requirements, the committee reports will be available on-line. She introduced Treasurer Craig McGinnis who will make a financial report.

Craig presented slides for 2019 recap (attached). He states that through the 2019 year the church financials were stable. The year of 2019 saw growth in the endowment, and development of new preschool classrooms. In addition, a new roof was added to the Sanctuary.

Craig presented a chart for the year 2020 (attached). He created a slide that showed the primary drivers of the budget as it was conceived. The chart shows that revenue

drivers such as Adult Day Care (ADC) and Preschool are down since these ministries are currently not operating. Craig thanks the congregation for keeping pledges current. He announced that the Adult Day Care (ADC) will open on a limited basis. The Preschool will remain closed until the State allows reopening. Most of the Preschool Programs that were not operational were refunded. All Weddings have been cancelled. Some weddings are currently scheduled for early July if the Sanctuary is available. These missions have been a large source of revenue for the church. Our current income is down by at least 20% compared to the budget for 2020.

The church received a PPP loan and it has been a big financial assistance. Craig discussed that the endowment return to date has been way down. However, he is optimistic that it will improve as financial conditions in the country improve.

Craig is not sure what the path forward will look like. The PPP loan will help sustain the church through the Summer. We are hopeful the revenue sources for the church will return to normal. The Administration and Finance Committee is focused on trying to find the best path forward so the church can focus on its ministries.

Martha offered to receive questions and opinions:

1.) Did we refund Preschool tuition? Yes, Preschool tuitions were refunded for the time it did not operate. In addition, funds for programs that could not be operated were also refunded.

2.) What is the interest cost on the PPP loan? When is it due? Craig is hopeful it will be converted to a grant and will not need to be repaid at the annual interest rate of 1%. The accounting staff really expects it all to be converted to a grant with no other required payment.

Motion: Motion to accept the Financial report. The motion is seconded.

A Vote Follows: **The motion to accept the report is passed.**

IV. Reports:

Tom Kiyabu Gives his report as the Outgoing Chair:

Tom discussed the New Norm. With the pandemic the World is reshaped. We have hope and plans, however we are still in lockdown. As we move out of the lockdown we will transform. Many non-profits are reshaping their own futures. We need to consider our own future, considering the issues and the opportunities. We will need innovators for the future. The growth of CUC has been positive in terms of income and even some additional congregation growth. We have all worked together to move the church forward. Tom appreciates the work of Rev. David Rivers through the years, including all the time he spent with the church. We congratulate Rev. David for all the great work he has done for the church. Tom thanks his team and the staff for rising to the challenges. He asks the church to pray for Martha and the Council and Staff. We need to consider

what is good for all and the decision to follow a path will be conflicted. We all strive for common goals and the chance to raise the church to the top.

Rev. David Rivers Senior Minister's Report:

Rev. David discussed the year of 2019. He recognized that many skills were used by congregation members to serve the congregation. The COVID-19 Virus has brought a change; however, the focus of who we are has not changed. We are on a mission to serve God. We realize that the plans and Visions to impact the community were ready to present. They have not died but are on hold until we move beyond the COVID-19 era. The church is not closed, it is open through the people and the internet. New ministries are emerging and on-line worship is evolving. We have been doing the best we can.

Rev. David recognized that he is personally burnt out. He recalls that it has been a great honor, however he needs a rest to recover from all the needs for this church. He recognizes that the Holy Spirit is among us and will continue to be part of the church. He describes a "Holy Rummage Sale" where the church revives itself with ideas and changes that are brought about by societal changes. Many things will remain the same, however new things will emerge. It is impossible to go back now. The church must move forward. CUC can be a leading church by moving forward and adapting. The transformation will require the church to consider many ideas to continue to be a shining light of love.

V. Announcements:

Rev. David's last Sunday will be July 5, 2020. The Rivers family will be moving to Charleston, S.C., and looking forward to a new life. He thanks all the church for the work they have done.

VI. Report of the Incoming Chair

Martha Balkin reported that she looks forward to a time when we can all get together in person. She thanked Rev. Rivers for his work. Martha recognized that the special address, Council-Chair@Centralunionchurch.org, is a direct email source for all to add information or to provide input about the church. She discussed the process for finding a new Senior Minister. She is looking at putting together groups that will reflect the diversity of our congregation. Please send mail to the above email address if you would like to assist the church.

Martha continued by discussing the reopening of the Church. It is clear that we need to have a safe plan and well thought out implementation process for opening the Sanctuary and other church buildings.

Martha thanked everyone for attending on this ZOOM format. We hope to have a congregational meeting when we can all come together again.

VII Martha opens the floor to questions and opinions:

1.) Will we be able to sing again, or will the Choir be able to sing? We are following the guidelines as they are presented to us. It is a tough decision. However, we need to recognize that contagion is the major issue. We need to follow guidelines and use all precautions.

2.) What is the timeline for the Windward Campus? The Plan for both campuses needs to be discussed as we move forward with all the changes.

3.) Will the departure of Rev. David change the Windward Campus? That is a discussion in progress.

4.) Can we meet on the Lawn? We are considering many options.

5.) When can we reopen the Windward Campus Office? It is a work in progress and is fluid. Every plan we make now changes based on changing COVID-19 information.

Seeing no further questions, she thanks the ministries that are working together and also to the staff for all their work.

Rev Brandon Durán Closed with a prayer:

We celebrate the spirit among us. We ask the Spirit to continue to be present with us as we move forward. We give thanks for the new ways the Spirit will move us forward in the future.

There is a motion to adjournment and a second. Hearing no discussion, a vote is taken.

Meeting is adjourned.

Faithfully presented by Bruce Luxton, Secretary