



Annual Meeting
Sunday, May 19, 2024

MINUTES

Kathy Jens-Rochow - President
Maureen Lundell - Vice President
Ahysa Boutron - Treasurer
Andrea “Andy” Perez – Secretary

- Kathy Jens-Rochow calls the meeting to order at 12:30 pm.
- Secretary Andrea “Andy” Perez confirms a quorum is present.
- Rev. Amy provides a blessing as she lights the chalice.

Minister’s report

- Rev. Amy remarks that the congregation is concluding the twelfth year of her ministry at River of Grass.
- She discusses the experience of being in our own space again after four years of meeting only via Zoom and then in rented spaces, and the joy of being at home with our “stuff” again.
- She remarks that our move did not happen by happenstance but rather through the efforts of so many in the room, dedicated people who did what it took to keep going, even though it took longer than we expected to be able to move into A9.
- She states that our being in our new space shows the power of community and congregational polity.
- She expresses how we will use every inch of the new space to grow in spirit and numbers, because there are people outside our walls who need what we have. Evangelism is not a four-letter word. Unitarian Universalism saves lives. It saved hers.

President’s Report

- Kathy Jens-Rochow provides her perspectives on having served as president during four challenging years, including the COVID pandemic years. It has been an honor she states to have served as president for four years.
- Kathy states that her intent was to be the president to get us into our permanent home, but that didn’t happen. Then COVID happened and we went to virtual

services only. Then we found the University of Florida; then Old Davie School. Church in a Box was a challenge. But we did it. Then we found A9. That was another challenge. But so many went above and beyond to make it happen. She recognizes specifically Ken Bresnahan's "phenomenal" efforts, along with those of Rev. Amy, and Karen and Gary Gonzalez.

- She notes that our goal since the very beginning has always been to be a beacon of liberal religion in western Broward County. That is still our goal.
- Kathy refers to a favorite quote from a song by Debby Boone "You Light Up My Life" that states "dreams are the seeds of change. Nothing ever grows without a seed. And nothing ever changes without a dream." At River of Grass, we continue to dream as "go and grow and flow the River Way."
- She ends by stating that this is a marvelous beloved community. And receives heartfelt applause for her long and dedicated service to the congregation.

Treasurer's Report

- Ahysa Boutron discusses the current balances in our three investment accounts held at Charles Schwab, which amount to a total of \$1,595K:
 - Capital Foundation Account \$924K
 - Capital Campaign Account \$576K
 - Operating Reserve Account \$95K
- She also presents information about pledge payments, which as of April 30, were at roughly 80% fulfillment, which she notes is "not the best." Contribution statements were mailed out at the end of March letting each member know where they were in terms of pledge fulfillment. Ahysa thanks Rita Cherubini who, as Assistant Treasurer, has been contacting people individually to assist them with fulfillment of their pledges. Rita states her projection is that by the end of June, the overall pledge fulfillment will be at 98%.
- Finally, Ahysa discusses the income and expense statement as of April 30, which reflects a deficit of \$70K vs. a projected deficit of \$98K. She explains that the high expenses and projected deficit were due to the cost of remodeling of A9 and the move-in.
- Ahysa ends by thanking everyone for paying their pledges and expressing how much better she understands now that she is treasurer the tremendous effort it takes by so many to operate the congregation.

Faith Development Report

- Karen Gonzalez notes that in our new space the children are front and center so she feels less need than in the past to explain what they are doing, because everyone can see. More detail she says will be provided on Faith Development Sunday in three weeks.
- There are fewer children now, but she notes it takes the same amount of effort to prepare a lesson plan for one child as it does to prepare for 20 children.
- The goal is to grow our Faith Development program, so “bring your friends!”
- She discusses how the move into the new space will allow for Adult Education programs in the year to come and how good it will be to be able to meet face to face.

Voting: Kathy explains how to vote via Zoom, via private chat to Zoom host, Susan Juncosa. The plan is for voting in the room to be via voice vote.

Approval of Minutes from last year’s Annual Meeting in May 2023.

- Ken Bresnahan moves to approve the Minutes. Rita Cherubini seconds.
- Motion carries unanimously.

Election of the Board:

Candidate Slate:

Officers:

- Leana Bresnahan, President
- Ahysa Boutron, Treasurer
- Geri Mikulski, Secretary (one-year)

Trustees, Two-Year Terms:

- Audrey Stang
- Mindy Lawless-Coker

Trustees, One-Year Terms:

- Andrew Meit
- Andrea “Andy” Perez

Nominating Committee Members:

- Peter Fox

- Kathy Jens-Rochow
- Diane Lade
- Elly Keane made a motion to elect the slate. Kechi Mourer seconded the motion.
- Motion carries unanimously.
- A Youth Rep was not named.
- Kathy thanks the current Board for their service.
- Kathy then swears in the new Board.

Report by Finance Committee Chair

- Brit Lundell explains amendment to the budget which reduces the projected deficit for the 2024-2025 congregational year by approximately \$16K to \$51K.
- The deficit is basically due to the fact that our pledge drive did not come through as high as we had hoped.
- Brit explains that the sources for covering the deficit are to draw from the Operating Reserve Account held at Charles Schwab and to use income earned by the Capital Foundation account and the Capital Campaign account.
- He notes that every dollar removed from these accounts reduces the amount available for the future purchase of a permanent home. So that we want to minimize withdrawals to the maximum extent possible.
- Drea Kelley moves to approve the budget as amended by the Finance Committee. Bev Kaufman seconds the motion.
- Motion is approved unanimously.
- Kathy extinguishes the chalice and Rev. Amy provides closing words.

Meeting Ends:

- Brit Lundell moves that the meeting adjourn. Karen Gonzalez seconds the motion.
- The motion is approved is unanimously.
- The meeting is adjourned at 51 minutes.
- Kathy thanks Drea Kelley, Geri Mikulski, and Bev Kaufman for providing the delicious food for the meeting.