

Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church

Annual Meeting

May 21, 2023

Recording of the meeting: <https://youtu.be/-l1U6a0Gn-8>

Complete Annual Report: <https://bbuuc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/2022-23-Annual-Report.pdf>

Call to Order

The annual meeting of Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church was held on May 21, 2023. It began at 12:04 pm and was presided over by Board President Chuck Smithers, with Madeline Sims as Secretary.

Establish Quorum

There are currently 135 Members. The quorum for this meeting is 25% or 34 Members. There were 14 proxies and 51 Members in attendance. The quorum was met.

Chalice Lighting Reading by Madeline Sims (chalice lit by Chuck Smithers)

Approval of minutes

The minutes from the May 22, 2022 meeting were distributed to the congregation in the meeting notice. The floor was open for any member to offer corrections. Since there were no corrections proposed, the minutes were approved as distributed by unanimous consent.

President's Report presented by Chuck Smithers, Board President

READI Ministry Resolution

The proposed resolution was distributed to the congregation in the meeting notice and introduced in the meeting by Rev. Carmen Emerson and read by Mike Ludwick. No questions or discussion.

Voting was done by raising voting cards. The resolution was approved unanimously.

Leadership Development Committee nominations

On behalf of the Leadership Development Committee, Chuck Smithers presented the following nominations for the Board of Directors:

- President – Chuck Smithers
- Vice President – Carole Hawkins
- Treasurer – Jason Chapple
- Secretary – Madeline Sims
- Trustees – Molly Brady and Cindi Jorgensen

Elections

All elections were uncontested, so bylaws specify that elections be done by acclamation.

There is one open position on the Leadership Development Committee. The bylaws specify opening the floor for nominations. Heather Chapple volunteered but since she is an employee, she cannot serve on the Leadership Development Committee. There were no other nominations. At the beginning of the next fiscal year, there will be 1 vacancy in the Leadership Development Committee that can be filled by a Board of Directors appointment.

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Treasurer's Report presented by Pam Richards, Board Treasurer

Budget

- The proposed budget for fiscal year 2023-2024 was distributed to the congregation in the meeting notice.
- The Finance Committee Chair, Peg Christenson, presented the proposed budget. There is a \$34K increase from last year. In the future, the committee might include a report on the change in each budget line item.
- Kris Kines motioned to approve the 2023 – 2024 budget as submitted, seconded by Molly Brady. Opened the floor for questions: no questions.
- Voting was done by raising voting cards. The budget was approved overwhelmingly.
- The congregation gave Peg a round of applause for her years of service as Finance Chair.

Bylaws

David Christenson presented a total of 7 Bylaws changes that were detailed in the annual report. He reviewed that per existing bylaws, a supermajority is required for changes to these Bylaws. A supermajority is when the number of yea votes is equal to or greater than 4 times the number of nay votes. Abstentions do not count as a vote but can be used to ensure quorum is still met.

Proposed Bylaws Change #1: Changes Articles VIII, IX and X

Leadership Development => Nominating

David made a motion to approve proposed bylaws change #1, as approved by the Board and as written in the meeting notice, seconded by Kris Kines. No questions or discussion. Voting was done via electronic means. There were 62 yays and 1 nay. Motion passed with a 98.4% vote.

Proposed Bylaws Change #2: Changes Article XVI Amendments

Clerical notations, such as updating table of contents and renumbering of articles and sections.

David made a motion to approve proposed bylaws change #2, as approved by the Board and as written in the meeting notice, seconded by Linda Mowers. No questions or discussion. Voting was done via electronic means. There were 64 yays and 0 nays. Motion passed with a 100% vote.

Proposed Bylaws Change #3: Changes Articles VI, VII, and XI

Governing structure more flexible

David made a motion to approve proposed bylaws change #3, as approved by the Board and as written in the meeting notice, seconded by Nina Hemmelgarn.

Discussion: Mark Yount proposed an amendment to this motion to replace the last sentence on dissolving committees with the following sentence: "The Board shall provide timely prior notification to Leadership Council, which shall conduct an advisory vote, which shall be reported to the Board prior to the meeting at which the dissolution will be voted." Mark further clarified that the Leadership Council is our current Council.

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Chuck asked for someone to second the proposed amendment to the motion, which was seconded by Rev. Carmen Emerson. Voting was done via electronic means. There were 45 yays and 19 nays. Motion passed with a 70.3% vote since Mark's amended motion only needs a majority to pass and not a supermajority.

David made his motion again, with Mark's amendment, seconded by Carole Hawkins. Further discussion was had on the merits of the proposal with the recent amendment and the desire to keep the bylaws simple. Voting was done via electronic means. There were 26 yays and 31 nays. Motion failed with a 45.6% vote.

A point of order was made regarding whether we could re-vote on the original proposal since the amended proposal failed. The parliamentarian confirmed we could. David re-made his original motion to proposed bylaws change #3, as approved by the Board and as written in the meeting notice, seconded by Mike Bernos. Voting was done via electronic means. There were 57 yays and 4 nays. Motion passed with a 93.4% vote.

Proposed Bylaws Change #4: Article XV Minister

Called Minister

David made a motion to approve proposed bylaws change #4, as approved by the Board and as written in the meeting notice, seconded by Tara.

Discussion: Mark Yount made the following motion to amend the current proposal to Section 2, seconded by Carole Hawkins:

- Add the following bullet point after the first one:
A membership vote of preapproval to hire a contract minister is limited to a one-year contract, unless otherwise specified in the meeting notice and motion wording. The Board may extend the term of that contract up to an additional three months. Any continuation, extension, renewal, or replacement of a contract minister beyond 15 months must be approved by the Board, and by membership at a meeting whose notice specifies this vote.
- Add the following to the end of the current second bullet:
Continuation, extension or renewal of a contract for a minister actively under contract with BBUUC does not require a Ministerial Search Committee. In the event a contract minister preapproved by the congregation vacates that position, the Ministerial Search Committee may hire a different contract minister subject to the same terms and conditions as the previous vote of the membership.

Discussion: Concerns were raised that this amended proposal could imply that the congregation does not trust ministers. In addition, with this amendment, we would not be able to hire any minister that needs to complete two years as part of their developmental plan to achieve fellowship status. The contract we have with our next minister could include these constraints, but we do not need to include them in the bylaws. Voting was done via electronic means. There were 2 yays and 57 nays. Vote to amend the proposal failed with a 3.4% vote.

With the vote on the amended proposal #4 failing, a vote on the original proposal was held. Voting was done via electronic means. There were 60 yays and 3 nays. Motion passed with a 95.2% vote.

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Proposed Bylaws Change #5: Article V Membership, Section 1

Various Membership Updates

David made a motion to approve proposed bylaws change #5, as approved by the Board and as written in the meeting notice, seconded by Kris Kines.

Discussion: Question was raised whether there was always a requirement to make a financial contribution David answered it has been in there for quite a while.

Voting was done via electronic means. There were 62 yays and 0 nays. Motion passed with a 100% vote.

Proposed Bylaws Change #6: Article V Membership, Section 2

Annual Update to Membership Roster

David made a motion to approve proposed bylaws change #6, as approved by the Board and as written in the meeting notice, seconded by Nina Hemmelgarn.

Discussion: Important to go through this process of keeping the membership list current as it skews quorum and the reported number to the UUA.

Voting was done via electronic means. There were 63 yays and 0 nays. Motion passed with a 100% vote.

Proposed Bylaws Change #7: Article V Membership, add section 6 to Article V

Revoking Membership

David made a motion to approve proposed bylaws change #7, as approved by the Board and as written in the meeting notice, seconded by Joani Maskell.

Discussion: Molly Brady made the following motion to amend the current proposal to Article V, Section 6, seconded by Carl Moody.

- Add the following after the first numbered sentence:
 - a) Prior to a final decision, the Board must:
 - i. Notify the Member in writing of their intent to revoke their membership and reasons for the revocation.
 - ii. Provide the Member with an opportunity to present their position to the Board.

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Discussion: Very lengthy discussion was had over the original proposal and Molly's amendment to the proposal. Those who spoke in favor of Molly's proposal desired having a due process for revoking anyone's membership and that any removal of a Member should be done with extreme caution and care. The Board would still be empowered to immediately remove a Member over serious violations. Those who spoke in favor of David's original proposal stated that the Board would not arbitrarily remove Members and that the congregation should trust the democratically elected Board. The original proposal states that a reason for revoking membership must be documented and provided to the Member. Members could still ask to be reinstated. A concern was raised regarding if what is shared with Member about why they have their membership revoked would be shared widely — would this infringe upon confidentiality, especially if the Healthy Congregation Ministry was involved? Additional discussion was had regarding whether Molly's proposed amendment should be in a Board policy or the Bylaws. Those in favor of Molly's amended proposal feel the process in revoking membership is so important it should be in the bylaws rather than a Board policy that could change each year. A question was raised that if we revoke membership, could that person still attend service? The answer is yes: they could attend service but not vote.

A vote on Molly's proposed amendment was held. Voting was done via electronic means. There were 40 yays and 18 nays. Motion to amend the proposal passed with a 69% vote.

After additional discussion, voting was held on the amended proposal. Voting was done via electronic means. There were 56 yays and 1 nay. Motion passed with a 98.2% vote.

Words from the Floor

Madeline Sims thanked Pam Richards and Peg Christenson for their hard work over the years overseeing the church's finances.

Closing words by Madeline Sims (chalice extinguished by Chuck Smithers)

Meeting adjourned at 2:07 pm