

Unity of Greater Hartford – Church Picnic Community Meeting and Bylaws Amendment Minutes

September 27, 2020 at Nevers Park Pavilion

1:12pm - Board President Scott Harrison welcomed the group and introduced the board members: Scott Harrison (President), Lee Dittman (Vice President), Sandra Dickerson (Secretary), Wendy Billings (member at large), Angela Cimadon (member at large) and Rev Christine Boylan.

Scott also stated that Terry Guzauckas had resigned from the board and thanked Terry Guzauckas for her service

Pray In – 1:15 pm Rev. Christine

Scott Harrison discussed the following updates:

- Review church community – we are live streaming with an Ipad
- Church protocols were reviewed . The board is responsible for our 3 employees – Reverend Christine, Toni, and Carolyn and it is imperative that they are safe.
- Outlined who would speak during meeting:
 - Wendy – decisions that the board has made
 - Angela – Report on things that the board is working on
 - Scott – Financial Update
 - Lee – Commitments to the church

Wendy Billings discussed the following:

- Keeping the Sunday service on Facebook
- Continue the Wednesday meditation service
- The Church had stopped all building rentals
- Daily Word every week day with Reverend Christine
- Things the church has done recently:
 - Unity Art project – decorating the window of the church for the walkers
 - Affirmation Box outside with the labyrinth
 - Affirmative Prayer class
 - Five principles class
 - Twelve Spiritual powers class
 - Graduation of Rev Chris DiGiorgio
 - Sunday Talk with the Shea’s celebrating 15 years of our Church Building
 - Life line screening is renting
 - Board approved 10 people for the Wednesday mediation service effective 8/19/20
 - Board approved outdoor service for the Unity World Day of prayer

Angela Cimadon discussed the following:

- Live Streaming- We have found a company called BoxCast who can help us with live streaming
- Church protocols – Sacred service teams met and made suggestions to the board
- On October 4th, there will be a zoom meeting with Reverend Christine and the sacred service teams regarding the last phase.
- Church survey was mailed to members and non-members. Five hundred surveys were sent out and have only received fifty so far. Mentioned that the survey is on the website.
- There will be a Five Principles class on zoom the first 3 Sundays in November 2020

Scott Harrison discussed the following financial information:

- Reverend Christine on behalf of the church applied for and received the Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan in the amount of \$19,800. The loan does not need to be paid back. It is on the financial statement as a grant
- Savings and checking up \$7,320 over last year.
- Giving is down \$9,958 (-8%)
- Total expense down \$14,041 and total income up \$10,912 versus last year.
- Church continues to tithe to Unity Worldwide Divisions as well as the Eastern Region.
- Physical improvements:
 - Purchased new wooden vertical blinds so we can block sunlight
 - Fixed the sidewalk near Teaberry estates
 - Updated the computers to Windows 10
 - Church has new website
 - Contracts expiring this year: Fire and safety plus the Phone system
 - Trash removal – we will now be allowed to call when needed instead of every week

Lee Dittman discussed commitments to church community

- There are three area of commitment on our commitment cards: Time, Talent & Treasure
- The Board has recommitted itself
- An example of talent is Donna Marshall knitting 100 hats by November 15th. She is donating 50 of them to Manchester Social Services
- The 2021 Board nomination is a great way to commit your time. There are two openings for next year.

Vote on Bylaws change

Scott Harrison read Article III, Section 3.05F of the bylaws, which is the section that needs to be amended:

F. Voting. Unless otherwise provided herein, the vote of a majority of the active members present and voting shall be necessary for approval or disapproval of the action being voted upon. Refer to Section 3.04 (D) and (F), and Section 8.01. Voting can be by secret ballot or by the show of hands. Proxy, Absentee, or electronic (Internet, email, fax, etc.) voting are not allowed.

Scott then explained that the way the bylaws are written, members can only vote in person. We currently have 80 active members. In order to be inclusive, we want to have people vote even if they can not attend in person. This opens up other voting possibilities.

Scott Harrison read the sentence in Article III, Section 3.05F of the bylaws, which need to be amended section that needs to be changed.

Current sentence *“Proxy, absentee or electronic (Internet, email, fax, etc.) voting are not allowed.”*

Change to *“Proxy, Absentee, or electronic voting may be allowed at the discretion of the Board of Trustees. The Board will decided the method(s) of voting on any issue of significance to the Membership, including amendment to the Bylaws.”*

Motion was made and seconded to accept the revised bylaws.

Reverend Christine and Wendy Billings approached to each member for their vote. Twenty-one members voted and everyone vote yes.