

**Unitarian Church of Lincoln
Spring Congregational Meeting 2020**

May 17, 2020 at 11:15am via Zoom

Opening Music: Enter Rejoice and Come In

Welcome & Opening words: Emily Cameron Shattil, Board President

The opening Words are from an anthology of meditations, *Voices from the Margins* by Jacqui James and Mark D. Morrison-Reed, One Love.

Emily Cameron Shattil explained that we are having a virtual meeting because of COVID-19 and that we will reaffirm all actions taken at the next congregational meeting. Emily Cameron Shattil thanked Jean Helms, Kelly Ross, and Reverend Sinclair for all their work on the virtual meeting. Emily also thanked the Nominations committee and those running for office.

Approval by Congregation to allow virtual voting for this meeting only

Emily Cameron Shattil explained that we must approve a rule for this meeting only that allows electronic voting for this meeting only. Attendees were asked to submit any questions via chat. No questions were submitted. The electronic voting took place through Zoom. Emily Cameron Shattil explained that the word “only” was used because if we vote virtually in future meetings we might have different rules.

Oscar Sinclair reported that 99 percent of the congregation voted to approve the rule for this meeting only.

Approval or Correction of 12/19/2019 minutes

Oscar Sinclair presented the meeting minutes through screen sharing during the meeting. Emily Cameron Shattil asked attendees to indicate corrections through chat. The winter minutes incorrectly spelled Sorensen. This mistake was corrected during the meeting.

The congregation voted to accept the corrected meeting minutes.

**Board of Trustees Election
Program Council Chair Election
Share the Plate Selection**

Emily Cameron Shattil explained that the congregation would be voting on all of the above using a virtual ballot located on the church’s website. Five minutes was provided for voting. Reverend Sinclair asked those who were struggling to contact Jean or Kelly for assistance.

Minister's Report: Rev. Oscar Sinclair

Rev. Sinclair explained that this has been a year of tremendous change and staff transitions. Kelly Ross joined us as Membership and Administrative Coordinator, Rev. Kimberley Debus joined us as our affiliated minister. We had a successful pledge drive in the fall. We transitioned to two Sunday services on January 12. We closed the church building in response to COVID-19 on March 15. The full report is attached.

Rev. Sinclair answered questions. Kimberley is our affiliate minister, she is institutionally attached to us but does not live in Lincoln. YouTube doesn't track membership. We are not sure about reopening the church in August. Whether we have an interim minister will depend on the budget.

Program Council Report: Charles Coley, Program Council Convener

Emily Cameron Shattil thanked Charles for his three years of service and the establishment of the program council. Charles explained that the changes in the governance of the church by establishing the Program Council freed up the Board to focus on policies and made our collective decision-making more efficient. The key to the success of the Program Council is the liaisons. Charles thanked the staff team, Kim Ziemann, all prior Board presidents and liaisons, and the nominations committee. The full report is included in the meeting packet.

Treasurer's Report: Dorothy Ramsey, Treasurer

Emily Cameron Shattil thanked Dorothy for her excellent contributions over the last three years as Treasurer. Dorothy thanked Duncan Case and Theresa Forsman. The church is virtually debt free. We passed a budget of a 12 percent increase over last year that allows us to live our values. Wendy Hestermann has agreed to serve as vice treasurer. Dorothy explained that work has started on a process for longer-term funding concerns, things not part of the annual operating budget, but not large enough for a capital campaign. Dorothy will be taking on the role of financial secretary for LUF. There is a new accounting consultant. Dorothy will be the pledge chair for the 2021 pledge drive. We have converted virtually all of our bill paying to electronic payments. We have applied for and received a Paycheck Protection Program loan for \$49,300 that starts out as a loan and converts to a grant and is not a debt. The full report is attached.

The annual auction is still going to happen and it is not cancelled.

Director of Religious Growth Report: Chelsea Krafka, Director of Religious Growth and Learning

Chelsea Krafka explained that in summer of last year we implemented a new curriculum for the 2-5 grades and a new formatting for our high school lesson plans. In fall, Chelsea facilitated training for teachers and assistants and a new parent orientation and attended administration

as leadership and hired a consultant prior to the pandemic. In winter, three sessions of OWL programming were started. A new Chalice Connections program began in concert with the 9am service. Chelsea led a worship service with a wind theme. Heather Thomas was hired as a preschool teacher. Alexa Daye was hired as the consistent evening childcare provider. Molly Khan became the consistent person in the preschool with Heather. In spring, when the switch to online was occurring, parents were surveyed. There is 11am Zoom on Sunday for younger children, including guest speakers. At 6pm on Monday, the middle and high school students meet. Chelsea described the available meetings with parents and a weekly email. The RGL committee has done some projects, like Chalk the Sidewalk and potentially a pen pals program. Chelsea explained that this is a hard time for parents and children. The full report is attached.

Adults with no children can attend the Drag Queen Story Hour.

The Election results were provided by Emily Cameron Shattil and are as follows:

The following individuals were elected to the board for three year terms: Judy Hart, Tonya Haigh and Burt Smith and Keith McGuffey was elected for a two year term. Karen Heafer was elected as Program Council chair for a three year term. All terms starting June 1st.

Jean Helms provided the Share the Plate Results: Fresh Start Home for Women, Voices of Hope, the NAACP/Lincoln, the Child Advocacy Center, Community Crops, the Center for People in Need, the Malone Center, El Centro de las Américas, the Nebraska Native American Women’s Task Force, Planned Parenthood of the North Central States.

Board of Trustees Report: Emily Cameron Shattil, Board President

Emily Cameron Shattil said even though we are responding to a pandemic, our values remain. In Lancaster county, 70 percent of the COVID cases were minorities, who make up 15% of the population. Addressing these disparities is part of civic life. In March of 2020, the Board approved a task force to address racial justice. Emily Cameron Shattil thanked: Jean Helms, Kelly Ross, Bob Fuson, Chelsea Krafka, Julie Enersen, Charles Coley, Dorothy Ramsey, Rev. Oscar Sinclair, Trevor Jones, Michael Reinmiller, Dan Payzant, Colleen Kadleck, Denise DeBose, Schulyer Geery-Zink, Lori Straatmann, Michael Krumm, Linda Brown, Theresa Forsman, and Mary Sommermeyer. The full report is attached.

Closing Words : Trevor Jones, Incoming Board President

Trevor Jones notes the congregation made history with its first virtual congregational meeting in 150 years. Trevor read words by Kurt Vonnegut.

Meeting Adjourned by Emily Cameron Shattil at approximately 12:30 pm.

Next meeting: Winter Congregational Meeting, Sunday December 6, 2020

Draft minutes submitted by Colleen Kadleck on November 11, 2020.

Draft minutes revised and resubmitted by Dan Payzant on December 2, 2020.