

Special Congregational Meeting at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo  
December 3rd, 2023

Meeting called to order at approximately 12:10

Bobby Withrow asked for a nomination for Parliamentarian. Tom Petrocelli was nominated and he accepted the nomination and served in that role.

Bobby Withrow asked for a nomination of the Moderator. Bobby Withrow was nominated and he accepted the nomination and served in that role.

Bobby Withrow asked for a nomination for two Tellers. Thea Hasan and Kate Bell-Schwede were nominated and accepted those roles.

Bobby Withrow introduced the slate of by-laws changes to be voted on in a block. It is requested that he separate the issues to be voted on singly. He proceeded to do so.

The 1st by-law change to be voted on included the removal of language from Article 1, Section B: removing “and its St Lawrence District in its Central East Regional Group.”

There is some discussion about the existence of various regions and where our Congregation belongs. There are questions from Phil Nicolai, Liz Parke and Terry Bisson.

The motion to vote is called by Val Anderson and seconded by Maria Testa and the motion carries.

The 2nd proposed by-law change to be voted on includes the removal of language from Article II, Section B: removing “the Director of Lifespan Faith Development, the Director of Music, the Church Administrator.” There is no discussion on this change. The motion to vote is called by Fran Manley and seconded by Lynn Mancuso. The motion carries.

The 3rd and final proposed by-law change to be voted on includes a change in Article V, Section A: Replacing “No person shall be eligible for election to the Board until that person has been a voting member of the Church for two years and is at least 18 years of age.” with “No person shall be eligible for election to the Board until that person has been a voting member of the Church for one year and is at least 18 years of age.” The floor is opened up for discussion and Liz Parke speaks to the group and says that this vote seems to be a reaction to recent circumstances. She also suggests that the Nominating Committee perhaps needs to work towards preparing better leaders to eliminate the need for this change. Beth White speaks next and states the difficulty that the Nominating Committee has had in recruiting members for the Board. Eliminating the two year rule may ease this difficulty as well as bring in fresh perspectives. Thea Hassan speaks next and supports what Beth has said and says she would like to see the by-law changed to give newer, but committed members the chance to bring their enthusiasm to leadership at the Church.

The motion to vote is called by Kate Bell-Schwede, seconded by Bridget Evans. This vote, unlike the other two, is counted by the Tellers. Christine Slocum abstains. The Ayes are 50, the Nays are 11. The motion carries.

The meeting is adjourned at 12:29