

**The Unitarian Congregation of Taos**  
**Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**February 2, 2020**

A video of the annual meeting is linked from our website to a YouTube page:  
<https://youtu.be/7E8EU80fDTg>

- The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m. by Barbara Scott
- Margot Coleman led us in the lighting of the Chalice.
- Chuck Fawns offered some reflections on the history of our congregation and on Unitarian values.
- Barbara Scott reviewed the agenda. A change to the agenda included notification of a draft, included in packet, of the new policy for members to attend board meetings who are not members of the board.
- The minutes of the 2018 annual meeting were reviewed. Under Caring Committee, “Barb” Aubrecht was changed to “Linda” Aubrecht. A motion was made to approve the minutes, seconded, and approved unanimously.
- Bette Myerson reviewed our 2019 income and expenses and our 2020 budget. A motion was made to accept the report, seconded, and approved unanimously.
- Mimi Owensby reviewed the 2019 expenditures for the Outreach Committee.
  - Packets included a document with the expenditures and a description of each entity that received our donations in 2019.
- Bob Aubrecht led an open discussion about the structure and purpose of the Outreach program. This discussion, designed to allow for input from the members of UCOT on the current model for Outreach, included 1) a proposal by Jim and Nancy Schultz to increase the annual Outreach expenditures by \$1000 to \$1500, and 2) another proposal from Dianne Frost and Bob Silver to make significant changes in UCOT’s approach to Outreach. Jim Schultz presented his rationale for their proposed increase in the Outreach budget for 2020. Chuck Fawns then read Bob Silver’s letter proposing eliminating the current model of gifting money to a range of Taos-based not-for-profits. The Frost-Silver proposal would be that UCOT members and friends work directly with one or more local organizations needing assistance. The intention would be to increase UCOT’s profile within the Taos community.

A lively discussion followed with comments covering several issues surrounding our Outreach program.

Previously in the agenda the Congregation had approved the 2020 budget with a line expenditure of \$4,000 for Outreach (an increase of \$1,000 over our 2019 budget of \$3,000), subject to any later decisions on the Outreach model. It was moved, seconded and approved – with two nays, plus a presumed two for

the absent Frost/Silvers – to continue the current Outreach model with the increased budget of \$4,000 for 2020 and to have the Outreach Committee continue to administer that budget subject to approval by the Board. It was apparent that the committee would search for another name than Community Outreach.

- Bob Aubrecht delivered a report on the Stewardship and Finance Committee.
- Barbara Scott gave a brief overview of our ministry offerings, including regular services, sharing circles, Fifth Sundays plan, music program, men's & women's groups, covenant and workshop groups, and dinners for six. UCOT friend Glenn Farmer gave a personal testimonial about the feeling of being welcomed at a recent sharing circle.
- Sally Savage reported that the premiere screening of the UCOT documentary, "Nurturing the Spirit of Life," would coincide with the first fifth Sunday of the year: March 29.
- Sally discussed the Caring Committee and passed around a sign-up sheet for those who were not already on the list of volunteers.
- Chuck Fawns described the process of ordaining Rev. Munro Sickafoose in Taos. Rev. Munro was ordained by UU Santa Fe on April 15, 2016. For a variety of reasons, he has chosen not to pursue Fellowship with the Unitarian Universalist Ministerial Association. Technically, this means his ordination is *officially* recognized *only* by the ordaining congregation. This vote would recognize his ordination and confirm his ministerial relationship with UCOT. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to ordain him in Taos.
- Gael Minton, head of the Music Team, gave a brief overview of the music program. She also discussed the new music policy for selecting performing artists.
- The Board was presented, including new member Dennis Scott, who will replace either Virginia Saporta as Secretary or Ray Taylor as member at large until it is decided at the next Board meeting. A motion was made to approve the Board. It was seconded and approved unanimously.
- Bob Aubrecht gave the closing reflection and extinguishing of the Chalice.
- The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m., and a fabulous lunch, organized and executed by Board Member-at-Large Margot Coleman, was enjoyed by all. Thank you, Margot!