

## **Union Church in Waban – Congregational Meeting Minutes – October 22, 2023 (hybrid)**

The meeting opened at 11:15 a.m. with a prayer from Pastor Megan. Attendees continued eating lunch and co-moderator Jaap van Reijendam officially called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Jaap said that there were two 2-year at-large nominating committee openings, and that Jenny Weisz was nominated for one of those openings. There was a motion to approve the nomination, which was seconded and unanimously approved. Judy Nagle asked for a definition of the term “at-large” as it related to this position. Jaap explained that “at-large” members of the nominating committee represent the congregation as a whole, whereas other members of that committee – like Jaap and other co-moderator Susan Hunt Stevens -- are on the committee in other roles.

Treasurer Rob Purser gave a stewardship update. There are 29 pledging units thus far, whereas there were 40 last year. We are \$12,000 behind current year’s budget amount, but there are still 3 or 4 more people expected to pledge.

A list of all committee members had been handed out to attendees, and Jane Purser said that Nancy Zollers should be added to the Communications Committee. Jenny Weisz and Brita Gill-Austern were also added to the Mission Committee, per Nancy, under ARJ.

Jaap said that it had been decided by Council that it might be a good idea to go through the church profile that had been put together by the transition committee when we were looking for a new senior pastor, with the central idea being “Who is God calling us to be?” Amy McMahon – who was not able to attend this meeting – had put together some ideas to highlight (highlight #1), We will visit parts of the church profile in future congregational meetings. Jaap read highlight #1 to the group, and asked if it resonated with people. It said that we are witnesses in the world to God’s joy.

Jay O’Beirne spoke about Java Gents and how people feel free to share. Frank Laski spoke of sharing joy with those far away in San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua, and how it continues – it is not a “one-shot deal.” Susan Hunt Stevens spoke of the connections that Pastor Amy and Erika Pond have made with Riverside. Kevin Johnson spoke about opening our doors and that Riverside is part of that. Gerri Ellion about her friend Ron and his hesitation about going to Java Gents. After he did finally go, he was very pleased to announce to her that he was “popular!” Nancy Zollers said the same thing about WellSpring. Pastor Megan spoke of the founding history or story of the church as if it is still living. It continues with every generation. Alison McCarty said that “curiosity” was a word that struck her from the highlight #1 that Jaap read. Jay spoke of the care and concern with people like Gerri’s friend Ron, Janet Holly, and David Hurwitz. Anya Bassett spoke of the support that she has recently received.

The next part of the meeting involved break-out groups to brainstorm on “in-reach” (reconnecting with our church community) and “outreach” (bringing new people into our community). The outreach group met on the stage and was led by Alison. The in-reach group stayed down in the vestry and was led by Molly Owen-Kiritsty. Both outreach and in-reach were covered by the group attending on Zoom, which was led by Susan Hunt Stevens.

Highlights from each group were shared after the breakout session, and then the meeting closed at 12:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jean MacDonald – Clerk

**Meeting attendees**

Pastor Megan Berkowitz	Pastor Amy Clark Feldman
Molly Owen-Kiritsy	Rob & Jane Purser
Judy Nagle	Wanda Getchell
Philip Rounseville	David Hurwitz
Frank Laski & Nancy Zollers	Diane Tillotson
Alison McCarty	David Spertner
Jean Wellington	Jim & Judy MacDonald
Deborah Laughlin McGovern	Soo Laski
Kevin Johnson	Jon & Anya Bassett
Jaap van Reijendam & Kathy Malone	Gerri Elion
Susan Gedrick	Jean MacDonald
Jay & Betty O'Beirne	

**Zoom attendees**

Brita Gill-Austern  
Susan Hunt Stevens  
Liz Caronna  
Susan Hunt Stevens