

Houston Congregation for Reform Judaism
Annual Meeting Minutes
Sunday, May 15, 2022 at 10:00 AM

Call to Order – 10:14 am

Invocation – Rabbi Steve Gross

Confirmation of Quorum – Rachel Koenig

A quorum was confirmed.

President's Report – Adam Foreman

Our sense of community has been challenged over the past two years with COVID-19. Even when the doors were not physically open, we still had opportunities to connect via remote and virtual programming. We were thrilled that people still wanted to connect to HCRJ. Now, we have a lot of hope for a return to normalcy as we return to in-person togetherness. Thank you to everyone for being part of this community.

Approval of the Minutes from the 2021 Annual Meeting

The minutes were approved.

Nominations

The slate of nominations of officers and new board members was approved.

Budget and Finance Report – Deborah Barrash

Income and revenue: We are blessed with a generous congregation who donate generously through specific fundraising and gifts. We also have a very generous anonymous donor. This amounts to \$245,000. We have cautiously budgeted for fundraising for next year.

Expenses - Our expenses came in close to what we estimated. There were some changes in the way the rabbi was paid. We also spent more on building and grounds (fixing an A/C unit). The rest was close to what we expected.

On expenses, we were granted two PPP loans over the past two years that represents "free" money.

We have no debt.

Bottom line - Because our revenues were higher than expected, we anticipate a surplus of \$100,000 this year. This is not typical.

Fiscal 2023 - For FY23 budget, our numbers are close to "pre-COVID" numbers, with the exception of salary increases for our amazing staff.

Religious school numbers are based on the number of expected students in each grade, and number of teachers.

Building rental is based on numbers of bar/bat mitzvahs we expect.

We have seen increases in vendors due to inflation (grounds, elevator maintenance, etc). The only high dollar expense we anticipate is the replacement of an A/C unit – this will come out of the building fees.

Most of the money we spend is on salaries and associated payroll taxes.

The budget for FY 23 was approved.

Religious School Director Report – Betti Buck

This was Betti's first year. We focused on revamping the Hebrew curriculum and integrating more active participating into the curriculum, including the new 3rd grade programming and confirmation class programming. We do a newsletter every month, and a motto of values to explore every month. We look forward to the year ahead!

Rabbi's Report- Rabbi Steve Gross

We have much to celebrate. Our theme was Yachad, together. Our year was a good start in the right direction. As the year has unfolded, we have been able to do more and more together, religiously and socially. We are trying to build a real sense of community through our religious school parents, as this leads to leadership opportunities.

Our in-person worship numbers are continuing to grow, and this is terrific. We are trying to develop a broader experience, and more ways for congregants to express themselves (a choir, an HCRJ band, a new service of the month called "Shabbat B'Yachad" which is very Torah centered).

The building is alive during the week with mah-jongg games, art, yoga, senior programming, mitzvah day, the bank mitzvah, in person seders, deli Shabbat, golf tournament. We are also trying to build our endowment through legacy gifts and planned giving.

The year has generated many sources of gratitude, and we are blessed to have such wonderful support. We sincerely thank all of our congregants and amazing staff.

Year in Review Video – Justin Deutsch

The video will also be mailed out to all members.

Call for New Business

None.

Benediction – Rabbi Steve Gross

Adjournment – 11:21 am.