

First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes

Sunday May 23, 2010

Congregation president Tim Richards called the congregational meeting to order at 11:40. A quorum was declared with, 127 full members, 22.4 percent of the current membership(568) achieving the quorum requirement of 15% of the full members.

Motion 10.05.23.01:

Colleen Crawley moved and Charlie Pekarek seconded the adoption of the congregational meeting agenda as printed in the meeting packet. Motion carried.

Motion 10.05.23.02:

John Frank moved and Spencer Thomas seconded the adoption of the rules of procedure as printed in the meeting packet. 1 opposed, 0 abstained, Motion carried.

Motion 10.05.23.03:

Don Winsor moved and Gretchen Jackson seconded the approval of the minutes of the May 31, 2009 congregational meeting as printed in the meeting packet. Motion carried.

Tim Richards explained the change made two years prior forming the Leadership Development Team (LDT), which replaced the Nominating Committee. Tim introduced LDT Co-chair Ken Clein.

Ken introduced the other members of the LDT: Erik Stalhandske (Co-chair), Cecy Ewing, Pat Appleberry and Ginny Preuss (board liaison).

Ken provided an update on the Leading with Love (LWL) Program, the leadership training program developed at UUAA. The program was developed by Bruce Gibb and Ann Jones, and the inaugural class included: Allison Halerz, Dixie Hibner, Meredith Ley, Colleen Crawley, Sarah Ross, John Erdevig, Kathleen Russell, Nic Sims, Kate Warner, Royla Furniss, Roberta Allen, Tom Reischl, Tom Darnton, Joan Burleigh, Ruth Blackburn, Kim Clugston, Barb Pickett, Erin Huffnagle, Lucas Kennedy

Tim Richards introduced Meredith Ley to provide an update on pastoral care. Meredith reported on the infrastructure developed over the past year to support the program's mission and covenant, including the creation of a Leadership Council. Meredith explained new programs and services rolled out this year, how the program supports our congregational "ends", the goals for next year, and shared stories of individuals and families supported over the past year.

Tim Richards introduced the current Board of Trustees to the congregation: Tom Reischl, Nick Sims (stepping down), Carolyn Madden, Gail Geisenhainer, Kim Clugston, Ginny Preuss, Margaret Pekarek (stepping down), Phyllis Valentine and Bryan Debbink (not present).

Motion 10.05.23.04:

The congregation elects the entire slate of candidates to the Board of Trustees as presented by the Leadership Development Team:

- **Vice President: Ed Lynn, first term**
- **Secretary: Ginny Preuss, second term**
- **Member at Large: Bryan Debbink, first term**
- **Member at Large: Joan Burleigh, first term**
- **Member at Large: Tom Darnton, first term**

Moved by Ken Klein, seconded by Barbara Picket. Motion carried.

Motion 10.05.23.05:

The congregation elects the Leadership Development Team candidate as presented by the Leadership Development Team:

- **Allison Hallerz, first term**
- **Royla Furniss, Appointed by Board, First Term**

Moved by Meredith Ley, second by Joan Burleigh . Motion Carried.

Kim Clugston gave a treasurer's report. She explained we do have a balanced budget of \$1,000,000, and some of the priorities funded at that budget level. She explained how our mortgage is a significant part of our budget, and that as we are able to pay that down we will be able to increase support of priorities set forth in our Core Values and Ends Statements. She explained that conversations have started within the Congregation Leadership to develop a strategy to pay down the mortgage.

Rev. Gail Geisenhainer gave the senior ministers report. Her report included a reflection on the strength and centrality of lay leadership for the life of our Congregation. In the past few years, our leaders have engaged our Sankofa project which became the Celebrating the Planet initiatives and offered the ground work for the languages of our new ENDS Statements and Statement of Core Values. Emerging in this past year have been the Leading With Love Leadership School. The Locavores and Ethical Eating Team and various Renewable Energy Initiatives. We have also been engaged in crafting new ways to structure and envision religious education. What must religious education look like in the 21st century? It is us to us! We renamed our program to Spiritual Growth and Development. We seek to embrace life-long learning as a practice for all ages. We hope to engage the world through values that we fully understand and can articulate. And we seek to work to help the world.

Rev. Geisenhainer gave thanks to Tim Richards who served two terms as Congregational President. He mentored her new ministry here with forbearance, firmness and love. Rev. Geisenhainer welcomed Carolyn Madden as our new President and said she looked forward to working with her as this new year unfolds. Together, we can make a difference in our world.

Carolyn Madden explained the General Assembly and the role of the delegates attending from our congregation. (A ballot containing three topics that are to be voted on at General Assembly was distributed to the Congregation as they entered the meeting – see attached at end of notes) Carolyn explained that the congregation's vote will advise the delegates. The delegates will attend GA with an understanding of the congregation vote on the issues, to help inform, but not direct, their votes. Carolyn provided background and explanation for the topics on the ballot.

Kathy Muha asked if the proposed Energy, Peace and Justice Congregational Study Action Issue was too large of a topic.

Tom Ewing explained that the topic is focused on the energy crunch in the future, global warming and rising sea levels.

Tim Richards gave his final president's report. He provided an update on the progress of policy governance and its value to the Board of Trustees.

Tim talked about three areas of focus and success for the Board:

- Leadership development, including the Leading with Love program
- Creating sound financial grounding for the congregation.
- Board congregational linkage, to ensure the board provides direction aligned with where the congregation wants to go.

Tim announced the board has elected to create the denominational affairs team, to grow connections to UUs at the district and national level. Celeste DeRoche and Roberta Allen were announced as co-chairs for the team.

Tim ended his comments by encouraging everyone to say yes when given a chance to fill a leadership position.

Member Comments and Questions:

Spencer Thomas shared 2 recent experiences: 1) After attending an AME church the minister commented on how active UUs are in social justice; 2) at a recent bridging conference in Cincinnati, one of our YRUU members, Fauster Kitchens, was elected to be the district Advisor of Spiritual Support.

Larry Junck asked if the interest rate we are paying is high and if remortgaging is a possibility. Kim Clugston stated we are at 7.25%, the current rate for commercial loans.

Ellen Teller, on behalf of the library committee, asked for more people to take home magazines as part of the magazine recycling program. She then commented on some of the new books available.

Tom Ewing reported he and his wife Hashan had traveled to India 3 months earlier. In 1896, Reverance Sunderland had traveled to India, and Hashan's great great grandfather knew him. Tom brought back thanks from the Khasi Hills church.

Caryl Stock stated the financial report is easier to read, but fears we have lost accountability. We need to go back to line items for all income and all expenses, that will give people assurance of knowing exactly how money is used.

Charlie Pekarok commented on how growing UUs starts early. There were 11 children in nursery today, and 14 is our record. He has had parents tell him their nursery child is why they come to church.

Russ Blaesing wanted to give a special thanks to Nancy Schaeffer for her dedication and the phenomenal job she has done with the Spiritual Growth and Development program.

Jane Bishop stated the budget numbers were all evident in the budget meeting held in January. The budget accounting has been very much enhanced over the past few years.

Kim Clugston stated Thom Bales does a full accounting every month on our website, and paper copies are available in the office. Kim is happy to answer any other additional questions. Transparency is very important.

Margaret Pekarek said before passing the torch, the board wanted to present Tim Richards with a thank you.

Tim Richards presented Carolyn Madden with a presidential chalice made by Ingrid Gunderson. Tim wants to start a new tradition, passing the torch. He said the chalice represents the president's connection to our congregation.

Carolyn Madden offered her gratitude for the past and new board supporting this congregation. She said she can't think of anything more fun than working with Gail over next year.

Motion 10.05.23.05:

Ken Clein moved and Tom Ewing to adjourn the congregational meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.
Respectfully submitted Ginny Preuss

Attachment:

**First UU Congregation of Ann Arbor- Congregational Meeting, Sunday, May 23, 2010
2010 Advisory Ballot from UUA for UUA General Assembly Delegates**

PLEASE VOTE and HAND IN YOUR BALLOT AT THE END OF THE MEETING

I. STATEMENT OF CONSCIENCE 2006-2010 : Vote for or against the approval of the Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking. The primary issue that has created much debate is reflected in the following questions:

CHECK ONLY ONE

- | |
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| <p><input type="checkbox"/> a) Should the UUA reject the use of violence in any form, including self-defense and the defense of others? ; or</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> b) Should we formalize our past practice of approving the use of force in self-defense and to preserve the life of others?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> c) Cannot decide with this information.</p> |
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II. CONGREGATIONAL STUDY/ACTION ISSUE (CSAI) 2010-2014. One of the following issues will be selected at GA to be the 2010-2014 CSAI.

CHECK YOUR TOP TWO CHOICES

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| <p><input type="checkbox"/> Energy, Peace and Justice</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> National Economic Reform</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Immigration as a Moral Issue</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ending slavery</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Revitalizing American Democracy</p> |
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III. The Unitarian Universalist Association Board of Trustees has drafted a resolution to approve pulling the 2012 General Assembly out of Phoenix, Ariz. The measure comes in response to the passage of a new state law cracking down on illegal immigration in Arizona, which many fear will lead to increased racial profiling and civil liberties violations.

CHECK ONLY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING

- Support the resolution
- Do not support
- Can't Decide