

MINUTES OF THE 2009 UUC ANNUAL MEETING, JUNE 14, 2009

ITEM: Call to Order

ACTION: Moderator called to order. Sr. Minister Jon Luopa led moment of silence for those members who have died in the past year.

ITEM: Appointment of Secretary and Tellers

ACTION: Acknowledgement of tellers and secretary.

ITEM: Announcement of quorum

ACTION: Tellers acknowledged that a quorum is present. (Required quorum is 81 members.)

ITEM: Motion to accept the proposed agenda

ACTION: Motion to accept agenda, seconded and approved. Passed with 1 abstention.

ITEM: Motion to ratify actions taken at the last Annual Meeting on June 15, 2008

ACTION: Motion to accept, seconded. Accepted. Passed with 1 abstention.

ITEM: Motion to accept the annual report as printed

ACTION: Motion to accept, seconded. Passed with 1 abstention.

ITEM: Treasurer's presentation of the proposed FY 2009-2010 operating and capital budgets

DISCUSSION:

[Alice Arrington, Treasurer of the Church] Last year the Board presented a budget without information on what funds would be available to finish this year's budget. We have been able to finish this year, to date, without a deficit.

Alice Arrington, Treasurer, thanked the congregation and shared that this year's budget has been met with pledges for fiscal year 09-10.

\$730,000 budget that was presented this year has pledges in support.

Alice asked if there were any questions about the budget for her or for Tom Taggart, the Business Manager.

Rhonda Peterson asked what is included in the income line of \$39,000 "Special events". Alice says that they are anticipating \$35,000 from the auction and the rest from other events.

Fred Capastany asked how the income was estimated. Estimate of pledges is based on pledge cards that are turned in. Fred asks again, How did we come up with \$730,000?

Alice says that the pledge goal was set and met by pledge cards. Based on the actual income (not pledges) from this year, and that \$730,000

was a reasonable number in comparison. Also looked at pledges and income historically from the last 4 or 5 years.

Sara Jane Siegfried asks that we show \$55,000 on the income of housing group but only \$5,000 for maintenance. Maintenance issues are more serious and require more than \$5,000.

Tom Taggart, Business Manager responds that the capital needs of the 3 houses is substantially more than the \$5,000. The rent from the houses is \$55,000 annually and has recommended for the future that the rental income should not be used for operating budget, but put aside for maintenance of the houses. The UU Housing group will pay the same amount. ??? But this year some of the rental income will be used to start a maintenance fund. Over time the money from the rent will diminish in its contribution to the operating budget and increase in its percentage to the maintenance that is set aside.

The \$5,000 on the budget is for routine maintenance, but we have added \$3,000 to that to a total of \$8,000 to take care of those basic maintenance needs for this year.

R. Mike Bloom asks for detail on costs listed as Administration, etc.

- Tom Taggart responds that this includes all pension, salaries, and benefits for staff. Taxes are all taxes we pay. Debts refer to mortgage payments on a loan taken out some time ago. Insurance is insurance for fire, liability, against embezzlement and other required insurance.
- Office is supplies for office, paper and staples, toner.
- Operations is paper towels in the bathrooms.
- Library is a small amount to maintain the library.
- Dues are district, PNWD, and the UUA.

ACTION: Motion to adopt as the Operating Budget presented. Seconded. Passed with no abstentions. Motion to adopt the capital budget as presented. Seconded. Passed with no abstentions.

ITEM: Vice President's presentation of the board-proposed bylaw amendments
DISCUSSION:

[Secretary notes] Ed Belcher, Vice President, presented the board's reasoning behind the bylaws amendments. Current Bylaws based on a smaller church and smaller staff. Updates to the bylaws are recommended to update them to be a document supporting our larger church and larger staff. Policy governance, now used by the Board, put in place the limitations on how the staff can operate. The Board is in the onsite representation of the congregation, the members to the operation of the church. .

Summary of the 10 articles of the bylaws.

1. No change

2. Clarifies committee membership
3. Financial administration.
4. Clarified consistency of terms and moderator role. Clarifies how treasurer is chosen. And clarifies the length of term for board officers
5. HR is responsibility of the staff, not board. Board is responsible for writing the policies of the church and members have veto power of those policies reasons for closed sessions of the church
6. Extends moderator role to 2 years
7. Slate of nominees to 35 days from 28 days
8. [missing notes]
9. Clarifies types of ministers. And the lower percentage of required quorum needed for calling those less central ministerial roles
10. Committees of the church are clearly identified and other committees are at the discretion of the church. Requirement of charters for all committees. Large provisions require significant advance notice to the congregations.
[end of Secretary notes on this section]

ITEM: Motion to accept the proposed bylaw amendments

DISCUSSION:

Each amendment will be proposed individually. And 90 seconds will be given to speak to pro and con of the amendments. Others will have 60 seconds to speak. We have a timer to be respectful for everyone's time.

Only those suggested amendments that relate to the Board's proposed amendments will be considered today. John's additional amendments will not be voted on today. Individual amendments required for each of John Webber's amendments.

Amending the bylaws require a 2/3 majority. Individual amendments to the board's proposed amendments require a simple majority.

We will not read aloud the amendments, as they are distributed. Anyone who cannot read them can sit with someone to read.

This process was developed by Rosemary Daszkiewicz and is within the purview of the role of Moderator, per Robert's Rules of Order. They represent Points of Order on how meeting work is handled.

1. Powers of the Congregation: John Webber desires to use "remove" instead of "overrule" for clarification (per submitted amendments). Board member Ed Belcher suggests that this does not clarify the section and that overrule is an understood word.
2. Trustee's exec Session. Karen Johnson wants to address the section on Personnel matters to add specificity that "only those personnel matters that affect named or identifiable individuals,

to" protect privacy rights". Board member asked congregation to reject. Sara Jane Siegfried says that open meetings laws are currently widely discussed. Vigilance is needed and the phrase could be broadly construed and that more specificity is required. Jack Lattemann says he is committed to transparency in processes and does not support this amendment. Personnel matters are different than organizational issues, such as hiring for a role or a job description. Jack urges no vote. Mark Brice urges the specificity to the individual person's level to authorize a closed meeting. Fred Capestany likes to clarify and avoid abuses but does not see a need to change the words and that interpretation will always be an issue and that policies are to be broad and not nitpicky and that trust in leaders in applying the rules is a better approach and that there will always be interpretation involved. John Webber speaks again to his request for narrower language that when you make a meeting closed the reasons need to be made plain. Byron Krystad clarified that we deferred to standing language in the bylaws from the past 6 years. "Personnel matters" has been a phrases for the last 6 years of the standing bylaws. We decided to leave this language standing as there was no particular need to update this section based on current church operations.

John asked not to pursue proposal #3. Sara Jane asked to appeal that order. Moderator said Out of Order and clarified that she has the authority to make that decision per Robert's. And that she has advised John on how he can bring his other issues on the Bylaws to a discussion.

3. Referring to proposal #7 where it references that a staff member cannot be elected chair of a committee. John Webber has recommended to insert "No staff member shall serve as the chair of any committee". Ed Belcher says that if a staff member is a member of the church and the committee wants the leadership, then he bylaws should not restrict that service. Sara Jane Siegfried said that staff should be in support of committees, not heads of them and that the separation is important. Bob Denaway says the language is too broad giving the example of an office staff wanting to serve on a committee that is entirely unrelated. Byron Krystad clarifies the board feedback that the committee can elect the most appropriate chair. The bylaws already say that the board can appoint a minister to do the work of the church as part of the board (Article V, Section 5, Paragraph d) and so cannot really restrict here.
4. Referring to Article X. Section 1. John Webber asks that the phrase "be guided by the principles of democracy" to be

language reinstated to this section of the bylaws. Ed suggests that in previous sections of the bylaws that we have talked about how we operate and Robert's Rules of Order. (Article IV, Section 5, Paragraph b and Article VI, Section 4, Paragraph e) Lisa ?? says that the redundancy may have a purpose here and she personally likes the sound of democracy and should be included. Rietta Stoneman says that if we call out in this one section that it does not apply throughout the document; she wants removed because both vague and limiting. Mark Bricey says that democracy is a reasonable right of the members of the church and maybe necessary and appropriate to include over and over in document; repeating never becomes a harm, but omitting can. Fred Capestany might be okay if this one were included, but that the tenor of the amendments shows a lack of trust and that we have called ministers and elected officers and methods to limit and balance all these roles. Jerome Chronin is aware of our democratic principles of the church but personally doesn't think it would be bad to be reminded of the democratic process and that reiterating is a good reminder as we are doing the work. Byron Kystad this particular piece in our exercise to update the bylaws responded to some difficulties in committee work that members would have the right to influence any committee's business at any time; wording was to give clearer direction and to avoid those difficulties.

5. Referring to Article X. Section 2. John Webber asks for a revision that would not require a sponsoring staff member to start a committee, but rather that a staff member be assigned to a committee so that committees could be started even if the staff were initially too busy to support. Ed Belcher says that sponsor is used to clarify that the staff member has interest in supporting the work of the committee. Ed asks that a committee that does not want staff involvement would run the risk of being outside Article I or that their work would be difficult. Sara Jane Siegfried says that staff relationship needs to be there to get resources or representation in staff meetings, but that it suggests that staff would be influencing policy in a member run church. Byron says that sponsoring is a positive role for staff and that direct and visible link to committees is best maintained through paid staff. Acting in isolation from paid programs causes conflict and duplication of work being done in the church.
6. Referring to Article X. Section 2. John Webber states that he is not advancing this his proposed amendment.

ACTION: Board submitted Bylaws amendments have a Motion to accept. Seconded.

There were no questions on the bylaws in general.

John Webber brought additional amendments discussed as above.

Voting results were:

1. #1 Motion and seconded. Amendment fails. 4 abstentions.
2. #2 Motion and seconded. 71 For. 91 Against. 4 Abstain.
Amendment fails.
3. #7 Motion and seconded. Amendment fails with ~ 9 abstentions
4. #8 Motion and Seconded. Amendment failed with 4 abstentions
5. #9. Motion and Seconded. Fails with 8 abstentions.
6. #10 No motion.

Motion to accept the Board proposed amendments. Passes with 2 abstentions.

ITEM: Green Sanctuary committee's presentation for the UUA Certification
DISCUSSION:

Laura Kennedy Gould, Chair of the Green Sanctuary Committee. Applying means we have filled the requirements set by the Unitarian Universalist Association. Also means a recommitment to incorporating the 7th Principles in our thinking as individuals and as a congregation. As an example, recycling, if we each took more care during coffee hour, we could save \$1200 per year for the church.

Resolution:

"We, the Congregation of University Unitarian Church, request Green Sanctuary certification from UUS.

- *"We affirm our commitment to the Seventh Principle.*
- *"We affirm respect for the interdependent web of existence of which we are a part.*
- *"We affirm to continue to include Earth consciousness in all of our programs and practices.*
- *"We affirm to continue making environmentally appropriate choices in our actions and decisions.*
- *"We affirm to strive to live sustainably on the Earth, our home."*

R. Mike Bloom makes the note of bus schedules and carpooling as ideas to incorporate for Green Sanctuary.

ITEM: Motion to approve requesting Green Sanctuary certification.

ACTION: Motion, seconded and passed.

ITEM: Recognition of outgoing members of the Board and LDC

Zoe Myers, Nominating Chair for LDC
Sally Davis, LDC
Anne Eacker, LDC
Judith Leconte, LDC
Rosemary Daszkiewicz, Moderator
Carolyn Rasch, Board of Trustees
Laura Sager, Board of Trustees
Byron Krystad, President of Board of Trustees

ITEM: Motion to approve the slate of nominees for elected offices for elected offices as presented

Joan Fuller, Jack Lattemann, Frank Metheny for Board of Trustees
Rick Barwinski, Kathleen Cromp, Rhonda Peterson for Leadership
Development Committee
Rosemary Daszkiewicz for Moderator

ACTION: Motion to approve the slate, seconded, and passed.

ITEM: Closing words

ACTION: Closing words from Jon Luopa.

ITEM: Adjournment

ACTION: Moderator adjourned the meeting.