



Minutes of Annual Congregational Meeting - May 19, 2013

Call to Order:

President Jill Fleming called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m., on Sunday, May 19, 2013, in the sanctuary of the Congregation's church building at 7141 California Avenue SW, Seattle, Washington. She welcomed everyone to the annual meeting of the Congregation.

Chalice Lighting:

Rev. Peg Morgan lit the chalice to open the meeting.

Quorum:

Secretary Karin Cumming reported that we had exceeded the number of members required for the meeting. We needed 54 of our 214 members for a 25% quorum; 90 members were present.

Minutes:

The minutes of the May 20, 2012 Annual Meeting had been distributed. Pursuant to motion duly made and seconded, the minutes were approved unanimously.

The minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting on December 2, 2012, had been distributed and upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes were approved unanimously.

President's Report:

President Jill Fleming said that the past two years have been rewarding, challenging, difficult and joyful. She reported that the Board work focused on the Strategic Plan and noted the following accomplishments:

With respect to objectives under Goal I, Maintain and Enhance our Close-knit Community:

- We had our first all-congregation barbecue;
- Thirty-six of our members attended a retreat at Seabeck with people from other local UU congregations; and
- We have begun planning for the objective of identifying an all-congregation social justice focus.

With respect to the objectives under Goal II, Establish Organizational and Management Structure to Support a "Program" Congregation:

- The Board has been wrestling with how to make its work more transparent, such as posting

DRAFT Minutes of WSUU 2013 Annual Meeting – to be approved by the members in May 2014 at the next annual meeting

policies on the WSUU website prior to adoption;

- A Transition Committee is to be formed by the 2013-2014 Board of Trustees; and
- The Board approved a Leadership Development program to begin operating next fall.

With respect to Goal III, Ensure our Financial Stability:

- The Board recruited members to serve on the newly established Finance Committee, to increase sophistication of financial planning, budgeting and reporting functions; and
- The Board increased focus on stewardship, hosting a stewardship workshop in January of this year.

With respect to Goal IV, Enhance our Building:

- The Board established an active Building Committee, upon which she serves; and
- The Board authorized a Capital Needs Assessment, which has been obtained.

Jill noted that a number of objectives have not yet started but said she is confident that in the next three years they can be accomplished.

Minister

Rev. Peg Morgan said she continues to be honored to serve as minister to this congregation. She asked for a few moments of silence to remember those we lost to death this year:

Mel Warn
Shirley Cooper
Glenn Brewer

May they be well and the memory of them strengthen us.

Other Committees

Jill noted that copies of committee, group and administrative reports had been distributed on-line and at the meeting, and additional reports will be distributed after the meeting.

Proposed Budget0

Treasurer Matt Aspin described the budgeting process of the Finance Committee and thanked the other members of that committee, Melissa Lang, Paula vanHaagen, Ellen West and Joanne Cooke. A motion was duly made and seconded to approve the budget. In discussion of the budget, Jill noted that:

The budgeted pledge level had not been reached last year so we tried to be more conservative for this year's budget.

There is predictable fundraising income from the Labor of Love Auction and the rummage sales.

There is reliable rental income from the cell tower and preschool.

DRAFT Minutes of WSUU 2013 Annual Meeting – to be approved by the members in May 2014 at the next annual meeting

There is no provision for a transfer from the Building Fund in the 2013-2014 budget year.

Included in funded expenses is \$4,000 for a ministerial intern to assist Rev. Peg and there is no increase in her income as minister.

With respect to Religious Exploration program expenses, funding was raised for prior year expenses by "Raise the Paddle" at the Labor of Love Auction.

We need a reserve account for funding building repairs other than the Building Fund itself. John Monahan asked if one can target donations to such a reserve account and Jill said that separate gifts can be made to the Building Fund.

Jill commented that we benefit greatly by giving our fair share of dues to the Unitarian Universalist Association and Pacific Northwest District, including the mortgage financing for our building.

Income is projected from five weddings, with \$3,000 as an offsetting expense for site readiness.

Matt suggested getting the budget process started earlier next year so that it is available for the pledge drive and posting.

Upon call for the vote, all voted to approve the budget, except one member, who was opposed.

Proposed Contingency Budget

Lisa Rietzes asked where responsibility lies in filling the contingency gap. Jill advised that it lies with the Board and under the Strategic Plan the Finance Committee will report to the congregation on a regular basis to share understanding of financial needs.

A motion was duly made and seconded to approve the contingency budget. Matt discussed the reasons for and importance of those additional budget items.

Sherry Holroyd had a question about when we will get an elevator. Jill explained that we have formed a Building Committee and that accessibility is one of the top priorities if not the top priority and that committee will bring planning to it. She also noted that cost could be anywhere from \$20,000 to \$100,000, depending upon the types of equipment that will work for us.

Lisa Reitzes asked if the implementation of the Leadership Development program would depend on funding of priority 10 on the list and Jill advised that it would start in September regardless.

Mark Wainwright asked if we will be voting to approve both the cost and prioritization. Jill described the expected process, which would be basically going down the list of additional budget items and it would probably not be all or nothing but funding each item in priority order to the extent we can.

Upon call for the vote, all voted to approve the contingent budget, with two abstentions.

Election of Officers and Trustees

DRAFT Minutes of WSUU 2013 Annual Meeting – to be approved by the members in May 2014 at the next annual meeting

Tracy Burrows reported that she is now serving as chair of the Nominating Committee because Lisa Maynard had resigned as its chair prior to her nomination for the Board. Tracy presented the following nominations for the Board of Trustees:

Joe Rettenmaier, President
Matt Aspin, Vice President
Eric Winiacki, Treasurer
Lisa Maynard, Secretary
Shannon Day, Trustee at Large (2-year term)
John Britt, Trustee at Large (past President's position, 1-year term)
Amy Hance Brancati, Trustee at Large (second year of Joe Rettenmaier's term as Trustee)

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the foregoing slate of trustees and officers was elected unanimously.

Election of Endowment Committee Members

Tracy presented the following nominations for the Endowment Committee:

Steve Becker
Allan Lang

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the foregoing nominees for the Endowment Committee were elected unanimously.

Election of Nominating Committee Members

Tracy thanked Lisa Maynard and Liz Bucklew for their service on the committee the past year and presented the following nominations for the Nominating Committee:

Liz Bucklew (1-year term)
Tracy Burrows, Chair (1-year term)
Jeff Richardson (1-year term)

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the foregoing nominees for the Nominating Committee were elected unanimously.

Introduction of President-Elect

Jill invited our new President to say a few words. Joe said he encourages participation on committees and other ways of building community. He said he has one rule—that he really wants to hear from each of us. He said it is a huge step for us to be taken off dependence on the Building Fund. He noted that we have 60 members participating in the music programs, which is two or three times the proportion of other UU congregations. Also, he expressed appreciation that the Strategic Plan was a grassroots effort and that the challenges we face will strengthen our UU community.

Joe acknowledged the service of departing board members Jill, Candace Sullivan, Laura Matson and Karin Cumming.

DRAFT Minutes of WSUU 2013 Annual Meeting – to be approved by the members in May 2014 at the next annual meeting

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m. after closing words by Rev. Peg Morgan, quoting Edward Everett Hale.

Karin Cumming, Secretary

Attest:

Jill Fleming, President