

Approved as Submitted: Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington
 Congregational Meeting Minutes June 4, 2006

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Welcome, Call to Order

Chris Clothier, the president of the Board, called the meeting to order at 12:43 pm.

Chalice lighting and Opening words

Rev. Bill Breeden offered the opening words.
 Chris Clothier lit the chalice.

Introduce Parliamentarian and establish a quorum

Chris Clothier introduced Steve Dillon as parliamentarian.
 90 members signed in for the meeting. 40 members were needed for a quorum.
 Jason Hill, Marion Sinclair, Dick Hiatt, and Dorothy Sowell circulated Membership Rosters to establish the quorum.

VOTE: to authorize Board of Directors to approve the minutes of this meeting

MOTION: Steve Dillon moved that the minutes from this meeting be approved by the Board.

2nd: Bob DeVoe

VOTE: passed unanimously

Outstanding Service Awards

Rev. Breeden presented Certificates of Outstanding Service Awards to Dolores Freiburger, for her dedication to Fellowship Dinners and photographing church events; and Mary Mahern and Judith Epp for their diligent work on the Civil Marriage is a Civil Right Task Force.

VOTE: Social Justice 25% designation

Carol Parks explained that there were 5 excellent applicants for the 25% donation from the Sunday Plate. The Social Justice Funds Committee narrowed the field to 3 candidates. Carol Parks facilitated a brief question/answer session between the congregation and representatives from these 3 groups. Martha's House – Iris Kiesling, Jodi Tobias; The Center for Sustainable Living – David Keppel and Lucille Bertuccio; Stepping Stones – Sherri Benham. Carol Parks presented the paper ballots for voting. Rev. Breeden and Rev. Mary Ann Macklin collected and counted the ballots. There was not a clear majority, so another paper ballot vote was taken for Martha's House and Stepping Stones. Again Rev. Breeden and Rev. Macklin collected and counted the ballots. Stepping Stones was the recipient of the 25% donation from the Sunday Plate.

Special Purposes Trust Fund Report

Harlan Lewis referred us to the report on page 37 of the Annual Report. Harlan Lewis noted that the Special Purposes Trust Fund welcomes donations and takes applications for fund distribution throughout the year. It was emphasized that this fund is separate from the church budget. (Chris Clothier shared a message from Carol Marks that due to the printer's error, the Annual Report was not printed double-sided to conserve paper!)

VOTE: Green Sanctuary Report

Anne Veldman reported that the Green Sanctuary Task Force is seeking accreditation for our church as a Green Sanctuary following guidelines from the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for the Earth. Copies of the 5 Step Action Plan are available in the church library. A congregational vote is required to apply for candidacy as a Green Sanctuary.

MOTION: Andrew Appel moved to have the Green Sanctuary Task Force pursue candidacy for accreditation.

2nd: Elizabeth Lion and Ruellen Fessenbecker

VOTE: passed unanimously

Long Range Planning / Strategic Planning Update

Melinda Swenson referred us to the report on pages 8-12 of the Annual Report. Melinda Swenson noted that the committee had met several times and suggested a change in their original charge. After attending a workshop led by Rev. Barbara Childs, the committee studied the strategic planning process of affirmative inquiry and recommended that process for our church. In April, the Board approved the committee's new direction. The committee is currently seeking more members.

Ministerial Relations Committee Update

Chris Clothier explained that the Unitarian Universalist Association is developing a distinction between the Committee on Ministry and the Ministerial Relations Committee. The first will include all aspects of ministry within a congregation; the latter will focus on needs of the ministers. Therefore, our Committee on Ministry has been renamed to its former name of Ministerial Relations Committee.

Joan Bennett, Sharon Yarber, and Clarke Miller clarified for the congregation the status of Rev. Barbara Carlson as Minister Emeritus. Upon retirement, Rev. Barbara Carlson had absented herself from our religious community for one year as suggested by the

Unitarian Universalist Association guidelines. Rev. Carlson will soon return to our church community and be greeted enthusiastically as a member of our congregation. Rev. Carlson will not have any official duties.

VOTE: Treasurer's Report and Operating Budget for 2006-07

Andrew Appel presented a financial snapshot of the 05-06 fiscal year. As of 5/2/2006 the budget was in the black by \$184.92. Pledge income was healthy and expenses were down. Our Sunday Plate donation has reached over \$5000. The problem area is the Building Maintenance Reserve line with \$1528.65 which is way too low for our approximately \$2 million building / property complex.

Andrew Appel alerted the congregation to the fact that there is no budget line for a search for a Director of Religious Education. Andrew Appel explained that the Board had approved taking \$3000 left over in the 05-06 Director of Religious Education budget lines and moving the money into a Transmittal Account to fund the search process. Chris Clothier noted that we needed to describe the search process as one for Religious Education Leadership which gives us more options. The Board will address this issue.

MOTION: Chris Clothier moved that the congregation approve moving this \$3000 from the 05-06 budget to a Transmittal Account.

2nd: Clarke Miller

Discussion: There was discussion to clarify the purpose for this money in the search process. Since our search process will take bids from outside the local community, there may be travel expenses for candidates. Rev. Breeden explained that he had discussed search process options with the Unitarian Universalist Association and the Heartland District. Both suggested doing a wide search. Rev. Breeden noted that our in-house leadership may apply for positions; this was insured by using the terms Acting Director of Religious Education and Acting Minister of Religious Education instead of Interims. Rev. Macklin added that the funds would be used for advertising as well as travel and housing expenses.

Andrew Appel further explained how the \$3000 was leftover from various Director of Religious Education budget lines from the 05-06 budget. Later, if necessary, we will determine what will be done with any money leftover from the search.

Cindy Port, Acting Director of Religious Education, explained that she had agreed to continue in this position working 30 hours a week for next year. There was still enough money in the 06-07 budget to hire Rev. Emily Leite as the Acting Minister of Religious Education. This staffing will allow Cindy Port and Rev. Leite to job-share with no increase in the Religious Education budget lines. Rev. Leite will be involved with family and intergenerational worship services and Adult Religious Education, as well as the program for children and youth.

Harlan Lewis Called the Question.

VOTE: passed, with 1 abstention

Next, Andrew Appel presented the proposed budget for 2006-2007.

Andrew Appel explained that the funds for the ministers .865 FTE (Full Time Equivalent) came from a redistribution of funds already in the budget. However, the money for the 2.3% COL (Cost of Living) increase was new money. All staff received this 2.3% COL increase.

Andrew Appel raised a concern about the under-funded ministers' Sabbatical Search Fund. Rev Macklin is due a sabbatical in 2007 and Rev. Breeden 12 to 18 months later. The Sabbatical Committee is looking for other sources of money.

Andrew Appel drew attention to the Long Term Maintenance Savings line. The line was funded with the requested amount. Andrew Appel warned that this amount is way too low when looking at future building needs such as roof replacement.

MOTION: Harlan Lewis moved that we accept the proposed budget.

2nd: Carol Parks and Deb Hutton

Discussion: There was discussion to clarify the wording about market increase. Andrew Appel explained that, especially with staff, we need a structure to look at staff compensation compared with similar positions in the larger market. For example, the best documented comparison was the compensation range for local area pianists. There was discussion to clarify the reduction of dues to the Heartland District. At the time the dues were submitted, we had recently gone through the process of updating our membership roles. Membership was down slightly, so dues were reduced.

VOTE: passed, with 1 abstention

VOTE: Nominating Committee Report

Ruellen Fessenbecker presented biographical information about the members nominated for elected positions. Deb Hutton referred us to the report on page 18 of the Annual Report. Deb Hutton's role as Chair of the Lotus Education & Arts Foundation was mistakenly listed in Harold Ogren's information.

MOTION: Harlan Lewis moved that we accept the slate as presented – Jan Skinner, Vice President of the Congregation; Bobbi Lahre, At-Large Board Member; Deb Hutton, Special Purposes Fund Committee; Harold Ogren, Nominating Committee.

2nd: Bob DeVoe

VOTE: passed, with 2 abstentions

Introduction of the Sabbatical Committee

Jason Hill introduced the members of the Sabbatical Committee – Clarke Miller, Beth Hollingsworth, Andrew Appel (after July 1 when his term as Board Treasurer ends.) The Sabbatical Committee includes members from the Board, Finance Committee, and Ministerial Relations Committee. Jason Hill noted that the Sabbatical Committee will soon approach the congregation for input and will regularly put information in the *Prologue*.

Personal Communications

John Crosby suggested that the congregation consider making a Taxation Gift to the City of Bloomington in appreciation and support of protective services provided by the police department, fire department, etc.

Jackie Hall noted that Judith Epp's testimonial about Civil Marriage is a Civil Right is on the website of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Jackie Hall encouraged everyone to call senators to oppose the Federal Marriage Amendment.

Chris Clothier, Board President, thanked Anne Haynes, Board Past President, for being a great mentor. Chris Clothier is looking forward to passing the gavel to Jason Hill.

Ministers' Reports and Closing words

The ministers gave another special thank you to Chris Clothier, Board President, and Andrew Appel, Board Treasurer.

Rev. Macklin shared that various Unitarian Universalist consultants who have worked with our congregation this past year noted that we have a very healthy congregation!

Rev. Macklin is looking forward to continued participation in staff development workshops with our church staff. Rev. Macklin plans to follow through on an activity initiated by Rev. Carlson to create a liturgical calendar. Rev. Macklin is excited about continuing to recognize long-term members.

Rev. Breeden commended our church for its amazing participation in many social justice causes. Rev. Breeden thanked the Stewardship Committees, past and present, for their commitment and service in supporting the needs of our growing congregation. Rev. Breeden is enthusiastic about the Small Group Ministry program that will start in the fall. There are currently 17 facilitators who will be trained for the Small Group Ministry program.

Our meeting ended with a video slideshow prepared by Rev. Breeden of special church events.

Rev. Macklin offered the closing words.

Adjourn

MOTION: Steve Dillon moved that we adjourn the meeting.

2nd: Iris Kiesling

VOTE: passed unanimously

Chris Clothier adjourned the meeting at 2:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy Sowell
Secretary