

Approved as Submitted: Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington
Congregational Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2006

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Welcome, Call to Order
Jason Hill, the president of the Board, called the meeting to order at 4:07 pm.

Opening Words and Chalice Lighting
Rev. Bill Breeden and Rev. Mary Ann Macklin offered the opening words. The ministers invited Sally Todd, church pianist, to light the chalice in honor of the wonderful music in today's service..

Introduce Parliamentarian and Secretary
Jason Hill introduced Steve Dillon, the parliamentarian, and Dorothy Sowell, the secretary.

Establish a quorum
Jan Skinner, vice president of the Board, established the quorum. 57 members signed in for the meeting. 41 members were needed for a quorum.

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

MOTION: Harlan Lewis moved that the minutes from this meeting be approved by the Board.

2nd: Jack King

VOTE: passed unanimously

Aesthetics Committee

Sandy Taylor reported that the Aesthetics Committee has been reactivated and has

established some short and long term goals. The committee would like the church to have a consistent look presenting "who we really are" as people enter our building. Some painting and clean-up tasks have been accomplished. The committee members are talking with Carol Marks to find out about insuring artwork in the building. Everyone is encouraged to send ideas about church beautification to the committee.

Shaping Our Future Together (S.O.F.T.) Committee Report

Diane Gregory explained that this committee was previously known as The Long Range Planning Committee. Diane Gregory explained the process of Appreciative Inquiry that the committee will use to guide the congregation as we identify areas of strength and areas for improvement. The Appreciative Inquiry process was piloted at the November Women's Alliance meeting using 1:1 interviews. The church services on January 21 will focus on this Appreciative Inquiry process. There will be many opportunities between January - March for church members and friends to participate in several interview sessions and share many stories.

Sabbatical Committee Report

Clarke Miller and Beth Hollingsworth reported on the work of the Sabbatical Committee which has been meeting weekly. The committee has applied for a Lilley Grant that is due at the end of January which could provide funds for Rev. Macklin's sabbatical. The grant's purpose is to support rest, reflection, and renewal for Indiana ministers and congregations. Lilley usually has approximately 100 applications and distributes 40-50 grants of up to \$45,000. Clarke Miller pointed out that ministers tend to have a high burn out rate. Rev. Macklin's proposed sabbatical will be for 4 ½ months starting in August 2007. Rev. Macklin's focus will be spirituality, health, and excellence in ministry. Rev. Macklin shared her plans to spend time at her family's lake cottage in northern Indiana, take an excursion to the southwest to explore The Fourfold Path, and to participate in an intensive month-long yoga retreat. Rev. Macklin briefly described the Sabbatical Committee's Plan A and Plan B. Plan A, with Lilley Grant funds, would make it possible to have Rev. Barbara Child on a regular basis. Last year, Rev. Child was a

consultant to the Board and Long Range Planning Committee and presented information about the Appreciative Inquiry process. Rev. Child has been a "most sought after" Unitarian Universalist Association interim minister. Rev. Child is retiring and moving to Nashville, Indiana and is excited about the possibility of serving our congregation during this sabbatical period. The Lilley Grant requires that up to \$15,000 be used for renewal of the congregation. There is a website link for congregation members to give input to the committee. In the grant proposal, Lilley wants evidence of congregational input about its commitment to the renewal process.

Plan B would still allow for limited services from Rev. Child. Rev. Laurel Hallman has agreed to be in the pulpit on the first weekend in October. Rev. Barbara Carlson has also agreed to be in the pulpit. Lilley will announce the grants in late May.

The Sabbatical Committee has developed a theme for congregational renewal, Our Unitarian Universalist Identity. We would explore our identity in relation to the Unitarian Universalist Association as well as the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington. Adam Leite suggested that the link between our S.O.F.T. appreciative inquiry process and the sabbatical committee's plans be stated explicitly in the grant. Will Watt asked about having people from outside the committee read the grant. Rev. Macklin noted that Linda Johnson, another minister in town who received the grant in 2000, will provide input about our grant.

Iris Kiesling asked about future plans for a sabbatical for Rev. Breeden. Rev. Breeden would be interested in a sabbatical after a few years. We could reapply for another Lilley grant.

VOTE: vote of confidence for sabbatical process

MOTION: Will Watt moved that we voice approval of the sabbatical plans.

2nd: David Cox

VOTE: passed UNANIMOUSLY

Board Announcement -- Special Purposes Fund

Harlan Lewis is stepping down after serving 5 years on the Special Purposes Fund.

Denise Ogren has agreed to step in. This change was voted on and approved at the

last Board meeting. Appreciation was expressed to Harlan Lewis and Denise Ogren for their service to the church.

Chalice Circles Update

Appreciation was expressed to Anne Haynes and Carol Parks for their work on the Chalice Circles project. There are over 100 participants in Chalice Circles; sign up is ongoing. Rev. Breeden noted that having 10% of your membership participating in Chalice Circles has been considered a mark of success; our church greatly exceeds that standard! People are finding deep meaning in these groups. Rev. Breeden and Rev. Macklin meet monthly with the Chalice Circle facilitators. The groups write covenants, engage in deep listening, and participate in two service projects for the church and the community. There is always an empty chair at meetings so the group will stay mindful about accepting new members.

Proposal to increase child care lines in current budget

There was a motion approved at the last Board meeting to increase child care lines in the current budget. Karen Jewell pointed out that the cost was underestimated and is actually over 10% of the child care line. A congregational vote needs to be taken.

MOTION: Karen Jewel moved that we approve the recommendation to increase the line for childcare wages by \$1655 and that we increase the line for childcare payroll taxes by \$127.

2nd: Clarke Miller

DISCUSSION: There was a question about current childcare wages. Starting wage is

\$6.75 an hour with a raise to \$7.25 an hour after 3 months. There was another

question - if we increase the childcare line, what do we decrease to compensate?

Rev. Breeden noted that our operating budget does have some surplus.

VOTE: passed unanimously

Announce January 31 Council Date

Dinner is at 5:30 with the meeting starting at 6:00. The budget will be the main topic. Jason Hill encouraged all committees to be represented. It was noted that the Lifeline Screening event will be held in the Fellowship Hall preceding the Council meeting.

Opened to Floor

Jean Knowlton requested that we encourage new members and lay leaders to attend the congregational meetings.

John Crosby suggested having higher expectations for attendance and raising the percentage needed for a quorum.

On behalf of Denominational Affairs, Iris Kiesling made 2 announcements:

Unitarian Universalist - United Nations Office in Washington, D.C. is asking for

papers on Developing a Peaceful and Just World.

General Assembly will be in Portland, Oregon, June 20-24.

Our church may send eight delegates. Fund-raising is necessary.

Rev. Breeden announced that he and his wife, Glenda, will be attending General Assembly AND Bill will be granted Final Fellowship in the Unitarian Universalist Association at this meeting!!

On behalf of the Green Sanctuary Task Force, David Keppel announced that our church's request for Candidate's Status has been accepted. The task force will submit the formal application in May. Congregational involvement is key to becoming an official Green Sanctuary.

Rev. Macklin reminded everyone that following the meeting dinner was being prepared and served by the YRUUs (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists) and their facilitators, Eve and Sam Cusack. Sally Todd noted that Sam Cusack was a member of the Culinary Institute of America!

Closing Words

Rev. Breeden offered the closing words.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy Sowell
Secretary