

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH of Bloomington, IN**  
**Meeting of Congregation, 12:30pm, May 20, 2001**

The meeting was called to order by Bob DeVoe, President of the Board of Directors. A roster of 317 members (attached) was circulated for signatures to determine if we had a quorum of 10 percent of the membership (32 members)--97 members and 2 friends signed. Bob emphasized that only members can vote. He drew attention to the reports, especially from the Special Purposes Fund Committee, included in the Annual Report to the Congregation distributed at the meeting (attached). He asked that people share if there were not enough copies. Bob noted that comments will be limited to two minutes per person, and the microphone is to be used. He asked that speakers identify themselves. He stated the Guy Loftman is the Parliamentarian for this meeting.

Opening words by Rev. Barbara Carlson were in remembrance of our founders. She asked that we hear each other with respect during this meeting.

**A. NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2001-2002:**

Those leaving the Board were honored. Special note was made of Susan Bookout's having served three terms on the Board. (List of candidates attached.) **Jeff Vincent moved acceptance of the slate of nominees for the Board. Harlan Lewis seconded. Dan Quilter called the question. Motion passed with one abstention.**

**B. OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARDS:**

Joan Caulton, Caren and Jesse Spencer-Smith, Jackie Hall and Lloyd Orr (Copies of awards attached.)

**C. OPERATING BUDGET:**

Lloyd Orr presented the operating budget for 2001-2002 and "The Budget at a Glance, A Report from the Finance Committee to the Board and the Congregation." (Included in attached Annual Report to the Congregation.) Lloyd stated that budgeted revenues were increased by about \$10,000, budgeted expenditures increased by about \$4,000. Tom Gregory asked if the Co-ministry Option is revenue neutral. Lloyd answered that it is and is covered in the budget. **Lloyd moved that the operating budget for 2001-2002 be accepted. Harlan Lewis seconded and called for the question. Motion passed with one abstention.**

**D. BUILDING RESERVE DISCRETIONARY FUND:**

Lloyd Orr presented a request to expend \$12,000 from the Building Reserve Discretionary Fund to pay for the paving of the back parking lot of the Church and to set aside funds for the possible future purchase of the Belcher Property. In explanation, Lloyd noted that the Church has first refusal of purchase of the adjoining Belcher property should it become available. Board and Congregational approval in future will be needed if funds aren't used for these purposes. About \$4,000 to \$6,000 will be left in Building Reserve to use otherwise. Discussion on the motion: Harlan Lewis asked when the paving was to be done. Lloyd answered that it would not be done until the highway is widened or other building projects are completed. Bill Corcoran noted the difficulty in maintaining the building and the need to pay for some of the maintenance. He asked if we could use these funds. Lloyd stated that these are one-time funds and can't fund on-going expenses, such as building maintenance. Ruellen

Fessenbecker spoke in support of the motion stating that it is valuable to be able to have money for either project when the time comes to act on either. Bill Lynch noted that up to \$18,000 has already been allocated from this Fund to upgrade the sound system. **Lloyd moved approval of the requested expenditure from the Building Reserve Discretionary Fund. Arda Landergren seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

#### E. CO-MINISTRY MOTION

Jackie Hall from the Future Ministry Committee presented the Future Ministry Committee Report (attached report). She emphasized that the ministers want a strong congregational vote. If there is less than 90 percent of the congregation approving the proposed co-ministry, the ministers will withdraw their offer, and we will start again from the ground up. Bess Lee asked if proxies of absentee vote could be presented. Guy Loftman stated that the Bylaws don't allow proxy votes, but if someone needs to leave prior to the vote, put the vote in writing and give it to the President. It may weigh on the vote if it is less than 90 percent.

The Congregation was asked to refer to the co-ministry materials previously sent out. Bob DeVoe read and explained the motion: **Because the Board concurs with the recommendation of the Growth Planning Committee for year-round ministry, and because Revs. Carlson, Macklin, and Breeden have proposed a year-round, co-ministry plan that can be afforded over the next fiscal years, the Board therefore moves that the Congregation approve pursuing the proposal, outlined in two letters from the Board President and discussed in meetings with the Future Ministry Committee, that would create a year-round co-ministry team of Rev. Carlson, Rev. Macklin, and Rev. Breeden. The Board would appoint a Ministerial Search Committee as per Bylaw 6.1 to recommend for consideration of the membership the Rev. Macklin as a candidate for calling in the fall of 2001, with an anticipated start date of July 2002. The Board would also seek to hire the Rev. Breeden for up to 1/4 time for the 2001-2002 fiscal year and would integrate him into the co-ministry over the next two fiscal years.**

Jackie Hall introduced the other members of the Future Ministry Committee: Michael DeNunzio, Cindy Port, Barb Schwegman, and Lois Hutter-Pishgahi. She emphasized their enthusiastic support and excitement about the possibilities this presents. She discussed the timeline they created for discussion. They entertained questions regarding the proposed co-ministry. Questions: What is a supply minister? A non-called minister. Is there a possible benefits loss for Barbara? Financial end is a package, which can be allocated by each candidate. Can Rev. Breeden be called before he is fellowshipped? It is not wise to "call" a minister until fellowshipped.

**Bob DeVoe moved that the motion be accepted by the Congregation. Dan Quilter seconded.**

Floor was opened for discussion, and comments were taken with the time limit of two minutes per person.

Gail Larsen feels there is a discrepancy in the church regarding teen youth group activities. Feels strongly there needs to be minister/s to minister to teens. Bob DeVoe responded that the Growth Plan Committee encourages Youth Ministry and it will be addressed.

Andrea Murray stated she is against the motion. Feels we are losing the chance to seek what else is

available and that this proposal may not be the best for all. Feels we are bypassing the Bylaws by not having candidating.

Walt Owens stated he is in favor of the proposal. He feels it is an innovative scheme with great possibilities of succeeding. He noted we know the three already and that Rev. Mary Ann Macklin will be coming this fall for candidating. He stated this is not an act set in stone—congregation still needs to approve.

Lloyd Orr stated that Andrea has expressed some of the concerns very well. However, he states this is the opportunity to vote if this is a good and then a chance to vote on each person involved.

Jean Knowlton stated she is in favor of the motion. She mentions Rev. Macklin talking about her life and her support of the Welcoming Congregation.

Shari Woodbury proposed an addendum to the current proposal: **Moved that concurrent with the pursuit of this proposal, the Board delegates to the appropriate body the responsibility of exploring how our congregation may increase the racial and cultural diversity of inhabitants of our pulpit.**

Kathy Sideli commented that she felt this was not pertinent.

**Hand vote on the amendment: 27 for, 51 against, 15 abstentions. Motion on amendment fails.**

Bob DeVoe responded to a question about whether the Ministerial Search Committee will do more than rubberstamp what is approved here. He stated that they will negotiate with the candidate for the financial and benefits package and starting date.

Deb Hutton stated that she finds this to be a very creative package and would like to support it. She stated that she has experience in ministerial search and knows all three candidates. She further states she has moved to this position from initial doubts.

Elizabeth Lion called the question, but Libby DeVoe asked if we could allow extending the limit of discussion. Guy Loftman, acting as Parliamentarian, said that we could do so.

Gail Larsen commented again that she has been through ministerial searches and feels more included in this process.

Kathy Sideli stated that she is delighted that this is a “dream team” and appreciates having others deal with the governance so she doesn’t have to do so.

Harlan Lewis stated that he is of two minds. He has been on a ministerial search committee and that the task is not easy. The group is entrusted with much responsibility. It is sad not to be able to see what is available, but it is a relief to have these outstanding candidates presented without having to do a search. It is a tough decision.

Ford Phillips asked if it was true that if we have an inside candidate we can’t open the process to outside candidates. Bob DeVoe stated that it depends on the vote on the motion.

Elizabeth Lion stated she is enthusiastic and embraces the idea of this proposal. She pointed out the diversity in the three ministers involved.

Harlan Lewis called the question.

**VOTE BY HAND COUNT: 84 FOR, 2 AGAINST, 4 ABSTENTIONS**

**MOTION PASSES BY MORE THAN 90 PERCENT!**

**Guy Loftman moved that the Board be authorized to approve the minutes from this Congregational Meeting. Harlan Lewis seconded. Motion approved unanimously.**

**Other Business: None**

Closing words by Rev. Barbara Carlson.

**Motion to adjourn** by Harlan Lewis. Arda Landergren second. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Doris F. Wittenburg,  
Board Secretary