

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH of Bloomington, IN
Special Meeting of the Congregation, 12:30pm, April 13, 2003

Connie Loftman, President of the Board of Directors, welcomed the Congregation to the meeting.

Rev. Barbara Carlson gave the opening words, calling on the "powers of the four directions."

Chalice lighting by Connie Loftman.

Parliamentarian, Guy Loftman, was introduced.

The meeting was called to order by Connie Loftman. A roster of 349 members (attached) was circulated for signatures to determine if we had a quorum of 117 members needed to call a minister.

Ministerial Search Committee Report:

Bob DeVoe, Chairperson of the Ministerial Search Committee, read the Ministerial Search Report (attached). The Ministerial Search Committee is composed of Bob DeVoe, Jackie Hall, and Harlan Lewis. May 2002, the Search Committee received the charge to recommend calling Reverend Bill Breeden for Minister as soon as possible in fiscal year 2002-03. December 2002, Rev. Breeden was fellowshipped. Interviews were held with the ministers, staff, committees, board, and Rev. Breeden. April 6-13 was the Candidating Week. Bob stated that many feel the Co-ministry is already a success in part due to Rev. Breeden.

Harlan Lewis moved, on behalf of the Ministerial Search committee, that the Reverend Bill Breeden be called as our minister. Steve Dillon seconded the motion. Since the roster had not finished circulating, there was a count of hands to establish a voting quorum-144 members were counted. (Secretary addition: 134 signed the roster.)

There was no discussion, and the vote was called. The voice vote indicated unanimous approval of the motion. There was loud applause of celebration.

Steve Dillon moved and Diane Port seconded the motion that the Board approve the minutes of this meeting. Jeffrey Huntsman objected to the motion, saying that according to Robert's Rules of Order, we cannot give authorization of a vote to another body. Harlan seconded the objection. Motion of objection failed by voice vote. A voice vote approved the motion that the Board approve the minutes of this meeting.

Reverend Bill Breeden entered the room and personally accepted the call to ministry.

Reverend Mary Ann Macklin made comments and congratulations with words from Theodore Parker.

MOTION TO ADJOURN by Steve Dillon. Jennifer Livesay seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Doris F. Wittenburg,
Board Secretary

Report and Recommendation of the Ministerial Search Committee
Robert DeVoe, Jackie Hall, and Harlan Lewis
April 13, 2003

In March of 2001, Rev. Barbara Carlson proposed to our Board of Directors that she, Rev. Mary Ann Macklin, and Rev. Bill Breeden enter into a co-ministry arrangement with our congregation. In co-ministry, all participants would be equal partners with each other in serving our congregation. The Board voted with enthusiasm to present the proposal to the Congregation for a vote.

Subsequently, at a special meeting on May 20, 2001, the Congregation accepted (with over 95% approval) the proposed plan of a year-round co-ministry team of Rev. Carlson, Rev. Macklin, and Rev. Breeden. In this plan, the Board would appoint a Ministerial Search Committee 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 to integrate him into the co-ministry over the next two fiscal years.

Over the summer and early fall of 2001, a (previous) Ministerial Search Committee conducted interviews about and with Rev. Macklin, scheduled focus sessions to discuss ministry in our church, carried out a survey of the congregation, provided an information board about Rev. Macklin in the Commons, provided articles in the Prologue about the process, and finally arranged a Candidating Week in the latter part of October for Rev. Macklin. At the end of the candidating week, the congregation voted overwhelmingly to call Rev. Macklin to co-ministry at our church. She accepted and started here in July 2002.

The Board began the integration of Rev. Breeden into the co-ministry by hiring him under contract for half-time ministry, still his current status. The present Ministerial Search Committee received its charge from the Board in May 2002 to complete the integration of Rev. Breeden into the co-ministry and to recommend him for consideration of the membership as a candidate for calling as soon as feasible in fiscal year 2002/2003. This feasibility depended in part on the successful completion by Rev. Breeden of fellowshiping as a UUA minister, since UUA policy is that ministers should not be called until fellowshiped. In the event, Rev. Breeden passed his fellowshiping interview in December 2002 with flying colors and without further conditions, as he was superbly prepared.

Following successful fellowshiping by Rev. Breeden, the present Ministerial Search Committee began a process for candidating similar to that for Rev. Macklin. Interviews were held with the other co-ministers, with the Committee on Ministry, with staff, and with Rev. Breeden. Prologue articles were provided about the process, focus sessions were scheduled in March, and opportunities for Rev. Breeden to meet with Church groups were provided during his candidating week of April 6 to 13.

The result of the Committee's investigations is that we find Rev. Breeden to be a superb preacher with a broad theological background that makes him able to communicate with a wide spectrum of people. He is a very caring person and an outstanding pastoral care giver. He has a passion for social justice that keeps us aware of our role in the community, and he is heavily involved in the prison ministry that occupies much of his remaining time. Finally, he is already an integral part of our co-ministry, whose members are good friends, have absolute trust in each other, and are a good match for each other. It is the opinion of those that we have consulted that our co-ministry here is already a success, and part of that success is due to Rev. Breeden.

Finally, since Rev. Breeden is already under contract as an integral part of our co-ministry, it may be asked why we should now consider calling him. The reason is that a contract provides only a limited, year-by-year employment, whereas a called minister has an unlimited term of appointment. The other members of our co-ministry have already been called and have an unlimited term of appointment. To FULLY integrate Rev. Breeden into our co-ministry, it is now time that he too be considered for calling to an unlimited term of appointment.

We therefore recommend that this congregation call the Rev. Bill Breeden to full co-ministry in our church, for an unlimited term of appointment to begin July 1, 2003.