

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington

Minutes of the December 9, 2007 Congregational Meeting

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Welcome, Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:08 PM by President Jan Skinner

Chalice Lighting and Opening Words

Chalice lighting by Walt Owens. Opening Words by Rev. Bill Breedon.

Parliamentarian introduced

Guy Loftman was introduced as Parliamentarian by Jan Skinner

Quorum report

The secretary, Chris Haynes, reported 65 members were in attendance, satisfying the quorum requirement of at least 41 members.

Motion: future approval of minutes

Allow the Board of Directors to approve minutes from this meeting at a future board meeting.

Moved by Chris Haynes, Secretary, second by Jack King

Vote: approved unanimously

Treasurer's Summary

1. Revenues and expenditures are on track for fiscal 07-08. Revenues are slightly above a pro-rata expectation and expenditures are about \$16,000 below pro-rata expectations.
2. There is a substantial surplus from the fiscal 06-07 budget. This provides for a much needed increase in reserves from about \$3,700 to more than \$23,000.
3. Perhaps there should be an increase in promotion of the Sunday plate collection. This would provide better support for both the social justice cause selected by the congregation, and the budget. The social justice 25% from Sunday Plate has not "paid for itself" as we had hoped.

A "non-pledge" memo on checks assures the the contribution will not go towards one's pledge.

-- Lloyd Orr

Reports

Sharing Our Future Together

Thomas Nelson-Laird summarized the work of the The Sharing Our Future Together (SOFT) taskforce. Their approach is "appreciative inquiry", emphasizing appreciation rather than criticism. This generates and documents warm feelings about the church, and suggests directions for action.

See attached report.

Courtyard Committee -

Cindy Port summarized work of the Courtyard Design Committee. A three dimensional model on display in foyer after the meeting.

As suggested by Ed Robertson it was agreed that an interim report before June would be provided.

There are too many unknowns to offer a cost estimate at this time.

Feedback encouraged from all, including the anesthetics committee.

See attached report.

Governance

Jan Skinner reported on work of the Governance Task Force. Carol reports membership today is 407. One goal is to enable the board to deal with big issues, rather than detail.

The board and other interested parties will meet with the UUA large church consultant, Stefan Jonasson, on February 1-3, at the church.

A special congregational meeting may be held in April to approve a change in board size, in time for the nominating committee to make recommendations.

Rev. Bill Breeden reports that in discussion with Rev. Mary Ann Macklin they believe the envisioned changes will help them a great deal.

See attached report.

Social Justice Grant for Habitat

Habitat Interfaith Build update on project and how receiving the grant impacts the project - future plans

Barb Berggoetz and Connie Nelson-Laird reported about \$9,200 has been raised. Eight other churches are involved, with a combined commitment of over \$20,000. We are in a financial leadership role and may be able to begin a build in the fall (rather than later).

SJ Funds short report about the SJ Funds and how Grants work

John Woodcock and Stefanie Estell reported on the Social Justice Funds committee granting process. Recommendations are passed on to the Special Purposes Fund. There was a unanimous

vote in support of the Habitat Task force proposal. There is a huge need for low income housing, and a great show of support for Habitat work by those attending the congregational meeting.

Motion to congregation about the \$4,000 grant being awarded to the Habitat Task Force

Moved that the Special Purposes Fund grant \$4,000 to the Habitat Task Force in support of the proposed build.

There was discussion of sensitivity to environmental impact in Habitat For Humanity builds.

Moved by Deb Hutton, second by David Cox

Vote: passed, with 1 nay and 2 abstentions

Sabbatical Committee

planning for Rev. Bill Breeden's sabbatical

Jason Hill reported for the Sabbatical Committee on planning for Rev. Bill Breeden's upcoming sabbatical. A Lilly Grant application will be made.

Motion to approve the process of Sabbatical for Rev. Bill Breeden

The congregation re-affirms support for the Lilly Grant proposal for funds to support the upcoming sabbatical of Rev. Bill Breeden.

Moved by Jason Hill, second by Karen Jewell

Vote: approved unanimously

Delegates to Heartland District meeting and UUA

Iris Kiesling announced the upcoming April 4th and 5th Heartland District meeting and General Assembly (GA) in Ft. Lauderdale, June 26th-30th.

Eight delegates, plus ministers, are eligible to attend the District meeting. Those interested in being a delegate should contact Iris know as soon as possible. The district office wants to know delegate names by mid-January so they can be kept informed of plans.

A panel discussion in a forum on January 6th will make choice of social justice issues to be supported by our congregation at General Assembly.

The congregation will support delegates as funds permit.

Personal Communications

Ray Rust observed that the wayside pulpit was not legible from the street. Rev. Breeden indicated that there were city code limitations (but larger type may be possible).

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM

Upcoming dates of interest

- December 16, 2007: Rev. Mary Ann Macklin returns from sabbatical
- Feb. 1-3, 2008: Large Church Consultant, Rev. Stefan Jonasson, at UUCB
- March 2, 2008: Talent Auction - Public invited. Consider what you will be donating
- Mar. 13-16, 2008: Large Church Conference, Louisville, KY