

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington

Approved Minutes of the June 7, 2009 Congregational Meeting

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Call to order by G.K. Rowe, President, at 4 PM

Motion: incoming board members and Special Purposes Trust Fund

Nominating committee chair, Jan Skinner, reported that the nominating committee had the following slate for incoming board members for next year:

Denise Ogren, at large Kevin Rottet, at large Chris Haynes, secretary

She reported the following nominations as members to the Special Purposes Trust Fund:

Clark Miller Julia Dadds

Vote: The nominees were approved for both bodies by unanimous voice vote.

Special Services Awards

The Rev. Bill Breeden presented Special Services Awards to David Parkhurst for his work on Hurricane Katrina relief, Arzetta Hults Losensky for her work with the church data base, and Barb Bergoetz for her work with Habitat for Humanity.

He also thanked Shari Woodbury and David Cox for their recent service as members of the Board of Directors.

Planned Giving

Deb Hutton and Lloyd Orr reported on the status of the Planned Giving committee, including their recommendations that a clear and specific process of describing donation opportunities and processes be updated for the benefit of donors and the church.

Proposed By-laws change

A proposed change in church By-Laws was postponed because of lack of required prior notice to the congregation.

Motion: Minutes approval

A motion to allow the Board of Directors to approve the minutes of the congregational meeting was made by Libby DeVoe, seconded by Deb Hutton and passed by voice vote.

Treasurer's report

John Lawson gave the annual budget report. (attached) He reported that pledges so far are \$10,000 short of the budget total for the coming year but that pledges are still coming in.

Motion: approve budget plan

A motion to approve the budget plan was made by Jan Skinner and seconded by Cindy Port. It passed without dissent by voice vote.

Green Spaces Initiative

Cynthia Port and Cindy Port reported on the Green Spaces Initiative Report, (attached) a plan with four components addressing a redesign of the courtyard, building repairs and green modifications, and sound system improvements. The proposal included a feasibility study to determine whether the needed funds could be raised. They introduced a motion to approve the components of the Green Spaces Initiative Report subject to the results of a feasibility study.

A long discussion ensued with questions about: The priority of the components: It was generally agreed that this process will include the congregation, as the plans for the report so far have also done.

The cost of the feasibility study: The task force is trying to keep the cost down, and will investigate grants and the Special Purposes funds.

The timeliness of raising funds given the economy: It was agreed that the feasibility study is intended to address this, with the idea that fundraising for this project should not detract from the ability to raise needed money for church functions and maintenance.

Other property issues: The task force said it had considered the possible need to buy the Belcher property and the coming of the widened Bypass in their discussions.

The task force motion was amended on a motion by Amy Taylor to include the word "positive" before the words feasibility study.

Two additional motions were proposed: one by Lloyd Orr was regarding a special congregational meeting to set priorities and the other by Mary Andrus-Overley was a re-wording of the original motion. Both were defeated by voice vote.

Motion: Green Spaces Initiative

The amended task force motion to approve the four components of the Green Spaces Initiative Report subject to the positive results of a feasibility study was passed by voice vote.

Mission and Vision Statements

Cindy Port presented the following updated mission statement and vision statement for the church.

Mission statement

In this liberal religious community of inspiration, love and action:
We celebrate life
we nurture one another
we care for the earth
and we work for the common good.

Vision Statement

Seeking the spirit
building community
changing the world

She explained that these statements generally need to be revised about every five years.

Motions to approve the proposed Mission and Vision Statements

The vision statement was passed by voice vote without dissent.

The mission statement was modified to include "We welcome all" as per a suggestion by David Keppel:

In this liberal religious community of inspiration, love and action:

We celebrate life

we nurture one another

we welcome all

we care for the earth

and we work for the common good.

The mission statement then passed by voice vote.

Breakthrough Congregation

The Rev. Bill Breeden reported that the UU Church of Bloomington has been named a "Breakthrough Congregation" by the UUA. He will start a six-month sabbatical Aug. 1.

Sunday plate 25 percent

The congregation also voted by paper ballot to allocate 25 percent of the Sunday plate collections to the Crestmont Boys and Girls Club.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15