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Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington

Unapproved Minutes of the December 11, 2011 Congregational Meeting

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Call to order by Steve Dillon, President, at 4:05 PM

Chalice Lighting by Reverend Mary Ann Macklin

Steve Dillon introduced Jack King as Parliamentarian.

[Board of Directors Governance Review](#)

Carol McCord, Vice President, reported briefly on the role of the Board of Directors and the nature of Board activity in both its prior and new Policy Governance form. This transition is still in progress and going well.

The priorities for the coming year were outlined:

- explore the UU model for becoming a Model Employer.
- strengthen our connections within UUA and regionally
- building interfaith connections
- expanding our engagement with community service

[Executive Minister's Report](#)

Melinda Swenson delivered this report on behalf of Reverend Mary Ann Macklin, who had laryngitis.

Our programming is thriving which is a result of solid lay leadership and staff. We also continue to be a beacon for other Unitarian Universalist congregations by modeling for others a growing and caring congregation. Recently a lay leader returned from a training in California regarding small group ministry. In her group, the focus returned to our congregation multiple times; people wanting to know how we were able to do what we do. Our Green Spaces Committee, which you will hear from later, has engaged in monumental work with caring and institutional savvy; they helped us dream and create more welcoming and accessible church grounds and building. I enjoy the remarks from visitors who have not been here awhile when they arrive. They are amazed and excited for us.

Overall, in our programming, ministry and outreach, I believe we are healthy fiscally, organizationally, and spiritually.

But there is still much to do and challenges to be met. We are by no means a perfect congregation. I don't believe there is such a thing. Sometimes we stumble along the way, but we are willing to ask for help and that makes all the difference. We are still experiencing some residual growing pains from all of our changes in governance, but they are not as formidable as they were a few years ago. We are learning what needs to be tweaked and changed in our overall governance structure and policies. You will hear about this today and in the spring congregational meeting. I cannot thank the members of our Board and Leadership Cultivation Committee enough for their patience and steady leadership as we find our way through some of the proverbial muddle in the middle.

Our Social Justice Task Forces continues to bring our voice to the larger Bloomington community, Indiana and indeed, the world. Our Adult Education and Religious Education program continue to help us deepen. Our Chalice Circle ministry offers a place to stop and deeply listen to one another. And the many, many folks who help make our Sunday Worship services happen are truly an ongoing gift. There are, of course, many other programs within this congregation that allow us to Seek the Spirit, Build Community and Change the World. Our Stewardship Committee and Music Program will bring us into 2012 with new excitement.

Safety is an ongoing theme in this congregation. A few years ago, after several incidences in which someone collapsed during programming in our building, a few of us did the groundwork to buy an AED (automated external defibrillator) to have in our building. We checked our insurance, our liability and other common sense concerns and everything seemed to point to the purchase of an AED. However, these little devices are expensive and can cost upward to a couple thousand dollars. Since we were in the midst of beginning our Green Spaces campaign, we decided to put the AED on the back burner for awhile. This past August, however, I saw an article in the paper about the Southern Indiana Cardiac Arrest Association. They were raising funds to help an organization in Bloomington receive a free AED. We responded right away. As it turns out there were two well-deserving applications, so we were asked if we could come up with \$500. Reverend Breeden and President Steve Dillon said they could find the money.

They contacted some of the medical folks in our congregation, some who had expressed earlier concern about the lack of an AED, and voila, we now have a check for \$500. The Chair of the Southern Indiana Cardiac Arrest Association will be here at the end of our congregational meeting to receive that check and present us with our brand new AED. [This did not happen, as the presenter was stuck in traffic, but it was received shortly after.] Training for staff and other interested leaders will take place this winter.

Lastly, as most of you know, we have had a number of memorial services this summer and autumn. We grieve as a community the loss of long time members and some recent friends. As ministers, Bill and I strive to keep the memory of those who have gone before as well as the heritage of our congregation, an important piece of seeking the spirit, building community, changing the world.as we go forward into

the New Year.

Treasurer

John Lawson, Treasurer, reported that pledge receipts are a bit behind schedule, but the current cash position is good and overall our financial situation is healthy.

Green Spaces Initiative Report

Libby DeVoe and Deb Hutton reviewed the many accomplishments of the Green Spaces Initiative (enabled by the recent Capital Campaign), and the remaining objectives of the Green Spaces Task Force.

Andre Appel reported on the financial status of the Initiative. Bridge loans from members have been taken, as up-front expenses have exceeded contributions to date. Those interested in further bridge loans please contact Andrew Appel.

Diane Kewley Port, co-chair of the Sound Committee, reported on recent sound system enhancements and remaining Green Spaces Initiative projects managed by the Sound Committee: addition of sound diffusion and efficient lighting in the Meeting Hall, improved sound absorption in Fellowship Hall, and provision for on-line video streaming of services.

Quorum Report

Chris Haynes, Secretary, reported 65 members present, with 48 required for a quorum (10% of membership).

Motion: Green Spaces Initiative thanks

We move that the minutes reflect the congregation's appreciation for the Green Spaces Task Force members time and commitment to the indoor and outdoor remodeling project. Our building is a reflection of that dedication.

Moved by Jan Skinner, second by Kelly Rouch

Vote: approved unanimously

Motion: minutes approval

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

Moved by Harlin Lewis, second by Jack King

Vote: approved unanimously

Leadership Cultivation Committee

Anne Haynes, Leadership Cultivation Committee chair, reported:

The Leadership Cultivation Committee and the Board have come to recognize that the current Board structure - set up as part of the transition to the visioning Board - will not work well for the long term. We, the Leadership Cultivation Committee, will work with the Board and the ministers to come up with a plan that we will bring back to the congregation at a future meeting. We need this in place before we bring a slate of candidates to the Spring meeting and especially at this time, with all the transition, it will be helpful to have a bit more longevity in the Board leadership. Our plan will be to bring nominations for at-large members who have an interest in continuing in a leadership capacity later on.

Motion: Term by-law suspension

We move to suspend Bylaw 5.3 to allow our current President and Vice President to serve another two-year term beginning July 1, 2012.

Moved by Anne Haynes, second by Andria Murray

In response to a question, the Parliamentarian clarified this was a legal motion requiring a two-thirds majority. In response to other questions Anne Haynes and Carol McCord provided some clarifications of the motions rationale and intent.

Vote: approved unanimously

Motion to Adjourn

Moved by Cathy Sedalious, second by Rachael Johnson

Vote: approved by acclamation

The meeting adjourned at 5:05