

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana

Seeking the Spirit, Building Community, Changing the World

Approved **Congregational Meeting** Minutes

December 8, 2019



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Submitted by Steven Gilbert, Secretary

Reports attached:

- A. Senior Ministers Report
- B. Associate Minister's Report
- C. Reverend Leite's Report

Call to Order

President Stuart Yoak called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

Introductions and Chalice Lighting

President Yoak introduced Guy Loftman as Parliamentarian.

Board Member Sharon Wiseman lit the Chalice.

Ministers' Reports

Reverend Mary Ann Macklin delivered a brief report (Attachment A) focused primarily upon the need for the church to raise funds to pay off the church mortgage in 2021. To that effect, she distributed cards soliciting commitments from meeting attendees to make pledges in 2020 that are equal to or greater than this 2019 pledges. Board members collected the cards during and after the meeting.

Reverend Scott McNeill delivered the associate minister's report (Attachment B), encouraging congregants to consider participating in the next Regional UU conference in Rockford, Illinois.

Reverend Emily Leite delivered a report (Attachment C) in which she expressed joy at the opportunity to fill in at the pulpit while Rev. Macklin was on sabbatical. She also expressed deep thanks to the staff and others for their support during this period.

Committee Reports

The Planned Giving Committee (Melinda Swenson); Green Buildings and Grounds Committee (Molly O'Donnell); Right Relations Committee (Amy Makice); and Social Justice Grants Committee (Denise Ogren, with input from Dan Wiseman) provided brief reports on their activities.

Treasurer's Report

Rich Slabach provided the treasurer's reports showing that the church is in good financial condition as of October 30, relative to past performance. Data are available in past board reports.

Quorum Report

Currently there are 547 members of the congregation with 10% attendance required to conduct business (55 members). The 87 members attending this meeting exceeded this minimum requirement.

Motion to Approve Minutes

Stuart Yoak called for a motion to allow the Board to approve the December 2019 congregational meeting minutes at a future UUCB Board meeting. The congregation approved a motion and second to that effect with no dissention.

Board of Director's Report

President Stuart Yoak provided the Board report, which specifically addressed efforts to upgrade the software and technology of the church; recognized the Special Purposes Funds Committee and its new member and chair, Andrew Appel; and praised the senior church staff members for their contributions to the church, especially in weekly staff meetings, and especially while Rev. Macklin was away. Stuart then introduced Abby Gitlitz to elaborate upon the launch of an Appreciative Inquiry (AI) initiative similar to one conducted successfully 12 years ago.

Abby identified the members of the AI committee, and said that this initiative in the coming year would include interviews with every member of the congregation, with the goal of determining what the church is doing well, and what ambitions members may have for the church in the future.

Dismantling White Supremacy initiative

Reverend Emily Leite reported on the activities of the Dismantling White Supremacy (DSW) Working Group. DWS is part of a UUA-supported initiative begun this year to identify ways in which white supremacy is reflected in educational materials and processes used in RE, with the goal of removing such unintended messages. Rev. Leite identified several changes that RE has made as a result of this group's studies. Based on DSW criteria, they conclude that UUCB must continue its efforts to eliminate messages of white supremacy both in RE and in its general operation.

Closing words and Adjournment

Rev. Macklin provided brief closing words.

After a motion to adjourn was made and seconded, and President Yoak adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

ATTACHMENT A

Congregational Meeting - December 8, 2019

Pledge Drive

As part of this year's Pledge Drive Celebration in April, we shared that we would not have a formal pledge drive the next fiscal year, April of 2020 for 2020-2021 and we would simply ask everyone to pledge the same amount. On the Pledge Card was a place to mark, yes, if you were willing to keep the same pledge for 2020-2021 that you pledged for 2019-2020. However, not everyone noticed this request. So we are asking for you to mark (on provided cards) if you wish to pledge the same amount as this year or change the amount. And if you would be willing to help us reach out to other pledgers with that question.

UUCB Mortgage

You may remember that in March of 2016, we refinanced* the church's mortgage with Old National Bank. The loan also included money to replace an old, failing furnace. We have been paying \$3,000/month toward the mortgage. This included an extra \$430/month extra toward the principal.

The maturity date of this five year loan is March 2, 2021. At that time the balloon payment will come due. The balance due will be approximately \$24,000. We are planning to have several fundraising events to pay off this balloon payment. The first, we hope, will happen this spring. We are bringing back former pianist Sally Todd for a concert. My hope is to have generous donors and raise an initial \$20,000 at that event. In the fall will be another mystery concert. I'd like to get an extra \$30,000 then to play off the final mortgage and make the balloon payment. We will see how it goes.

* Our previous mortgage was with Chase Bank. The balloon payment with Chase came due in March 2016. We got a better interest rate with Old National Bank than we were paying with Chase. Our interest rate with ONB is 4%.

Attachment B

Congregational Report – December 2019

One project that was important this fall was boosting our Help Feed Our Hungry Neighbors – We focused a September worship service on the issue and the gained new task force members (I believe, 10!). This time of year is another unfortunate but important reminder of the need to support justice for people experiencing hunger, homelessness, and poverty.

In March, our theme is “Engagement” and I would like to gather information about whether there is energy in our congregation for a task force related to democracy. This follows recent work within the larger Unitarian Universalist movement (past study/action issues approved by General Assemblies, as well as the new focus of our major office related to social justice). We hope to bring in a UUA staff person who is organizing our larger Association’s work under a project called “UU the Vote” to inspire us and other congregations as we undertake voter registration and engagement.

Also this fall, I’ve worked with: Leadership Cultivation, Chalice Circles, and the Monroe County Public Library on the creation of an Interfaith Series (panels/roundtables/discussions).

Regarding UUA/Denominational Affairs –

MidAmerica Assembly – April 18, 2020 – Rockford, Il. (text from the UUA): **Regional Assembly 2020** will be held at **The Unitarian Universalist Church, Rockford, Illinois on Saturday, April 18, 2020**. Our keynote speaker will be Taquieta Boston, Special Advisor to the UUA President for Institutional Inclusion, Equity, and Change. The day will feature worship, the annual business meeting, lunch, keynote presentation, and select workshops. The annual business meeting and keynote speaker will be live streamed for those who cannot attend. On Friday evening, April 17, The UU Church in Rockford will graciously host an evening gathering for those in town

GA in Providence, RI - (text from the UUA): General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. Please join us Wednesday, June 24 through Sunday, June 28, 2020 in Providence, Rhode Island for this 5-day immersive experience where we participate in inspirational worship services and informative workshops, reconvene with friends and colleagues, and explore our bustling exhibit hall. GA is an unforgettable experience for the thousands of UUs who attend. Meet us in Providence and you’ll leave with renewed energy and innovative ideas to share with your congregation and community-at-large!

The theme for General Assembly in June 2020 is *Rooted, Inspired, & Ready!* We are in touch with our theological roots, we are engaged in transforming our faith, and we are fired up to take action in the wider world.

Registration and Housing - Registration is now open at uua.org/ga. Register by March 15 for the lowest rate. Rates will increase on March 16 and again on May 1 (can also be an online delegate)

Attachment B

Congregational Report – December 2019

Finally, grateful to Rev. Emily, staff, board and many volunteers for help over the past few months – delighted to have Rev. Mary Ann back!

ATTACHMENT C

Minister's report: December 8, 2019

Emily Manvel Leite

I will be brief, since an important part of my religious education ministry this fall has been the work shared with the Dismantling White Supremacy Pilot group as we work to transform our religious education program, and that group will be reporting on our work later in this gathering.

In this moment, I want to speak words of appreciation for the supportive way in which so many of you—staff members, members, and friends—stepped up to help during Mary Ann's sabbatical, and for all of your generous and open-hearted response to my increased ministerial role during this time.

It was a joy to create a new Autumnal Equinox Sunday worship, to share my thoughts with you in the Jewish High Holiday service and to write the remembrances of members of our congregation who died in the past year for our Ancestors Celebration, along with my usual storytelling and Intergenerational Thanksgiving and Procession of Giving services.

When Greg Haas died unexpectedly, it was an honor to work with many of you, the Quaker community, and his family to create his memorial here. In these months, I was glad to have the opportunity to work closely with Stuart and Abby, our president and Vice President, and also with chalice circle facilitators and the board. I have appreciated the deeper relationships that have come from spending much more time on pastoral care this fall with the knowledgeable support of Sharon Yarber, our caring committee chair, and Melinda Swenson, our congregational nurse. The work of ministry has been rich and transformational for me this fall. I am deeply grateful to be serving here in this time.