

First Unitarian Church South Bend  
Annual Congregational Meeting  
21 May 2017

The meeting was called to order by Gary Metzler, board president, at 12.05pm.

It was determined that a quorum was present. (40 members were signed in, plus four proxy forms)

Approval of congregational meeting minutes.

- Florence Klecka moved, and Rich Wallace seconded, that the minutes of the 22 May 2016 annual congregational meeting be approved as read. Motion carried.
- David Mayfield moved, and Pat Taplick seconded, that the minutes of the 30 October 2016 special congregational meeting be approved as read. Motion carried.

Reports. Minister's and president's reports, printed in annual report.

2017-18 operating budget. Roger Birdsell moved, and Mary Alice Hardy seconded, that the operating budget be approved.

- Roger Birdsell: Have pledges been received yet from the 18 pledging units that had not pledged by May 10. Susan Siemers said that the Stewardship Committee is getting in contact with them.
- Chuck Leone, treasurer, commented on the budget. It is a deficit budget. Mortgage payments are now included as an expense/use of funds. The projected excess of income this fiscal year should cover next year's deficit.

Motion carried.

Endowment disbursement. One request, the \$4400 for an intern minister, has been withdrawn. Roger Birdsell moved, and Kay Azar seconded, that the remaining four proposals be approved. As listed in the annual report, these are:

- \$1500 to the Marketing Committee to increase the strength of the wireless network in the church building.
- \$3500 for an archivist and supplies for sorting/organizing church history records and materials.
- \$3900 (\$1300) per delegate to subsidize sending incoming board president and up to two other delegates to the 2017 General Assembly in New Orleans.
- \$1550 for development and building of a Mobile Ecology Education Center on Wheels.

Discussion:

- Tamara Ciszczon asked if funds will also be available next year. Chuck Leone explained the guidelines for endowment fund disbursements.
- Tamara Ciszczon asked how the endowment fund is invested. Chuck explained the UUA investment fund.

- Susan Siemers asked when member access to the new Icon church software will be available. Chuck answered that it is available now but protocols have not yet been established.
- Tamara Ciszczon asked what this year's rate of return on the endowment fund has been. Chuck said it has been about 10%.
- Susan Siemers asked if there was a likely candidate for the archivist work. Chip Roush answered Carla, our office manager. Dale Gibson noted that Carla has done some work with the materials but is reaching the limits of her knowledge of the church and that we will need to find someone else.

Motion carried.

#### Elections.

Dale Gibson moved, and Kay Azar seconded, that the slate of Board of Trustees officers and trustees as listed in the annual report be approved.

Vice President	Chuck Leone
Treasurer	Elena Wake
Trustee, 2-year term	Jim Ward
Trustee, 2-year term	Wendy Lohman

Motion carried.

Roger Birdsell moved, and Susan Siemers seconded, that the slate of candidates for the Endowment Committee and the Nominating Committee as listed in the annual report be approved.

#### Endowment Committee

Suzanne Waller, to complete the term of Jim Ward

Joseph Gress, three-year term

#### Nominating Committee

Chair—Gary Metzler, outgoing board president, one-year term

Current member—Susan Van Fleit (2<sup>nd</sup> year of two-year term)

New member—Becky Lindstrom (1<sup>st</sup> year of two-year term)

Alternate—Lois Holm

Tamara Ciszczon asked how long Suzanne's term on the Endowment Committee will be. Gary Metzler answered, one year. Motion carried.

Strategic Planning Task Force Report. In addition to the written report in the Annual Report, Willow Crisovan provided an update, explaining that the results of the recent surveys will be publicized soon and that the task force will be discussing with committees what needs to be done, based on these surveys.

Peace and Justice Focuses for 2018. Greg Young reported on the recent informal poll for the congregational focuses for 2017-18. The top four were climate change and environment, education challenges (truth in science), feminism, and immigration. In order to narrow the four down to two, a poll of those present was

taken. The two receiving the most votes were climate change and environment, and education challenges (truth in science).

Volunteer of the Year Award. Gary Metzler presented this to Marilyn Shaul.

Lifetime Achievement Award. Gary Metzler presented this to Dale Gibson.

Recognition of 2016-17 Board of Trustees. Gary thanked all for their service: Susan Siemers, vice-president; Melanie Smith-Guillaume, secretary; Chuck Leone, treasurer; Janet Bogar, trustee; Tama Crisovan, trustee; Florence Klecka, trustee; Eli Williams, trustee.

Other Business. Chuck Leone presented, for informational purposes, two initiatives that the board has discussed which will cost some money but are not in the budget.

- AED (automatic external defibrillator), about \$2000
- Intergenerational choir, including a part-time choir director, about \$5-6,000.

Barbara Boyd asked if endowment disbursement money could be used for the AED.

Gary Metzler explained the timeline for endowment disbursement requests. It was also noted that, though contributions may be requested for these initiatives, the board must first vote to allow such directed donations.

Adjournment. Dale Gibson moved, and Karen Dickson seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. It's not clear that a vote was actually taken; however, there were no objections when the meeting adjourned at 1pm.

Fern Hamlin  
acting meeting secretary