

**Minutes for the Annual Congregational Meeting  
Unitarian Universalist Church of St. Petersburg  
April 21st 2013**

**Opening**

President of the Board of Trustees, Greg Burton, opened the Annual Meeting at 12:37 PM. Green voting cards were distributed to those who had been members of the congregation for at least sixty days as were packets of information with the following information:

- \* Agenda for today's Annual Congregational Meeting
- \* Minutes from last year's Annual Meeting on April 29th, 2012
- \* Nominations for Board and Offices for Fiscal Year 2013-2014
- \* Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014
- \* Annual reports: Board of Trustees, Building and Grounds, Congregational Life / Membership Ministry, Children's Religious Education, Administrative Committee, Music Ministry, Worship Committee, Minister's Report, Endowment Report

Greg introduced Chuck D. Hinton as the church's pro bono attorney. With forty-five members present, a quorum was established. Greg stated that due to a mailing error that the ten day requirement for slate of candidates had not been observed for approximately one third of the congregation and that they had been sent the slate with only a six day notice. A motion was put forward to not reconvene the Annual Meeting next week but to continue with the meeting despite the late notice. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Approval of Agenda**

Karen Coale moved to approve the agenda and Eric Mitchell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Review of Minutes**

Eric Mitchell moved to approve the minutes from last year's Annual Meeting of April 29th 2012. Dani Skrzypek seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Election of Trustees and Officers**

Teresa Kelly presented the slate of nominees. The slate presented by the Nominating Committee did not require a second.

Board of Trustees: Marcia Piacentino, Penny Duff, Ian O'Hara, Jane Fanning, Dani Skrzypek

Officers:

Clerk: open

Treasurer: Margie Manning

Assistant Treasurer: Michael Pohl

Financial Secretary: Dani Skrzypek (removed upon request)

Assistant Financial Secretary: Sheryl Long

Board of Endowment: Nancy Clark, Alex Bolton-Schultes

Karen Coale moved to accept the slate a presented. Margie Manning seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Dave Coale nominated Keevy McAlavy for Clerk. Margie Manning Seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Penny Duff nominated Lori Price for the remaining vacant seat on the Board of Trustees. Marcia Piacentino seconded. Margie Manning asked Lori how long she had been a church member. Lori replied she had been a formal member of the church since the summer of 2012 and a resident of Saint Petersburg for three years. Jack Reed asked Lori what her profession was. Lori replied that she was an architectural historian. Dave Coale recommended Lori as a candidate and stated he was impressed with her commitment to the congregation and participation in Membership Committee activities. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Adoption of FY 2013-2014 Budget**

Greg Burton stated that current church membership of 109 has not changed much in the last decade and the church has been getting by with support from the endowment.

Margie Manning reported the budget for fiscal year 2013-2014 is approximately \$217,000 and that it is less than the previous year. She reported that sales of grocery cards had raised approximately \$2500 in the last 18 months. The accrued endowment recievable for the past year was approximately \$46,000 and for fiscal year 2013-2014 is budgeted for slighly less than that. The Children's Religious Education budget is \$1000 higher than the previous year to fund OWL training as required by the church's Welcoming Congregation status. The repairs and maintance budget for 2013-2014 is higher than the previous year for various reasons but does not include expenses related to the current AC problem. An amount of \$10343 listed as GIFT is the new method the church will be paying its UUA dues. This pilot program of the UUA is based on church expenses rather than membership numbers and is expected to be more equiable between congregations. Compensation for the minister is higher in 2013-2014 than the previous year because of a 12 month contract instead of a 10 month contract due to Katy's former congregation helped with her moving expenses. The children's RE staff will enjoy a modest pay increase. Two new employee positions appear in 2013-2014: choir director and accompanist.

Beth Fountain asked for more information regarding the accompanist position. Margie stated the job description entailed playing the piano or another instrument for hymns.

Jack Reed asked if the 12 month contract meant the minister would be preaching during the summer. Margie stated that Katy would preach through the third Sunday in June and return on the third Sunday in August. Greg stated that it has been a long standing tradtion in most UU congregations for full time ministers to take mini-sabbaticals during the summer. He further explained that the 10 month contract from the previous year was because of her starting later in the year due to her moving from Naples.

Jack Reed asked what the current pledges totals were. Dani replied that the church was budgeting approximately \$100000 and pledges to date were approximately \$96700.

Don Chambers asked if property use income was expected to increase once the AC repairs were completed. Margie replied that since no decision on AC repair financing had been made yet there was no corresponding line items in the proposed budget. Greg stated that the Board had hoped a decision would have been made by now concerning the AC but the engineering study had not been completed

yet. He further stated that once a study had been completed there would be three main options for the church to decide upon. 1) repair the current system that is only functioning at half capacity, 2) upgrade to a similar system or 3) replace with an all new system which will probably be cheaper than option 2. Greg stated there were two methods to fund the repairs, either with a capital campaign or a draw upon the endowment.

Mike Manning asked what percentage increase over the previous year is the minister's salary for 2013-2014. Margie replied it was an increase of approximately 15%. Greg stated the increase was partly due to insurance coverage which for the previous year was partially paid for by Katy's former congregation. Furthermore the UUA has restrictions and requirements on compensation and that the increase shown in the budget includes other expenses such as insurance and isn't all to be considered 'pay'.

Marcia Piacentino asked about the 100th Anniversary Fund. Margie replied that the Century Fund had collected approximately \$1500 in direct contributions from a special collection during a service in February 2013.

Jack Reed asked if the church's contribution to the UUA was higher in the proposed budget. Margie stated that the UUA recommended that churches contribute 7% of their yearly expenses to the UUA but that 5% was acceptable and that 5% is what appears in the proposed budget.

Barbara Dvorak asked if there was anything budgeted to cover expenses for lay led services during the summer and if the church had insurance coverage for the summer. Margie stated that the yearly budget for lay led service compensation was \$1900 and that the church has liability coverage on a yearly basis and the summer is covered.

Nancy Becker asked why there were no funds available in the proposed budget for advertising. Margie stated that in the past the church has spent upto \$5000 on newspaper advertising with no effect. She stated that word of mouth was the most effective and best marketing.

Marcia Piacentino stated she would be willing to help with renewed marketing attempts and wanted to speak with others interested in helping the church with marketing.

Karen Coale reminded everyone to help keep the website up to date since it is our current best marketing tool.

Greg stated that in her short time with the church our minister Katy has already appeared several times in the local newspaper, in letters to the editor and in articles.

Don Chambers asked why there were no funds designated in the budget for marketing property use of the church facilities. Margie replied that the church raised approximately \$12000 year to date in property use with no funds spent on marketing it.

Beth Fountain asked why there was very little done to inform the congregation and public about our status as a Welcoming Committee. Penny Duff stated that advertising the Welcoming Congregation status on the website was ineffective and that instead special outreach to the LGBT community was needed.

Mike Manning asked where the Welcoming Congregation Plaque was displayed.

Dave Coale thanked everyone who helped out with Membership Committee activities in the past year but stated there was no one person in charge of church marketing activities. He stated that most visitors indicated they found the church either through the website or by passing by in the street.

Eric Mitchell moved to approve the proposed budget for fiscal year 2013-2014. Barbara Rowell seconded. The motion passed with two opposing votes.

### **Presentation of Special Award**

Greg Burton recognized Anne Justise for her work in organizing and promoting the recent Intergenerational Day. Anne was not present. Greg stated that Anne as well as Joan Barkley will both be recognized at the church homecoming in the fall.

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

Eric Mitchell proposed amending the church bylaws to allow electronic (email) notification of meetings. Greg replied that would need to be taken up at a Board of Trustees meeting.

### **Adjournment**

Barbara Rowell moved to adjourn the meeting. Penny Duff seconded. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 1:40 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kevy McAlavy - Clerk to the Board of Trustees