

Unitarian Universalist Church of St. Petersburg  
Minutes for the Congregational Annual Meeting  
April 24, 2016

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Board of Trustees President Lori Price at 12:10pm.

**Welcome and Establishing of Quorum**

Nineteen members were needed to establish a quorum. Dani Skrzypek certified that 31 members were present which established a quorum.

**Adoption of Agenda**

Paul Burnore moved to adopt the agenda, Jane Fanning seconded, agenda accepted.

**Approval of Minutes of April 19, 2015 Annual Meeting**

Sally Carville moved to accept the April 19, 2015 Minutes, Paul Burnore seconded, Minutes accepted.

**Reports**

Lori referred congregation to reports that were included in email packets.

**President's Report**

Deb Robinson presented Lori with a gift basket of wine, declaring that Lori has been an amazing leader who skillfully and patiently brought us from hard times to where we are now. Rev. Jack then presented a bouquet of red roses, "one for every brilliant decision she's made". Lori responded that UUSP's positive growth has "truly been a concerted effort by a dedicated group of people who kept their heads up when it wasn't easy to do so. They've put us on this positive path. As my last official act as president, I want to say thank you."

There were no additional comments or questions.

**Minister's Report**

No comments or questions.

**Music Director's Report**

No comments or questions.

**Treasurer's Report**

Dolores Benjamin thanked Sally Carville for her continuous help in working out the RE budget. No additional comments or questions.

**Financial Secretary's Report**

No comments or questions.

**Board of Endowment Report**

Darren Stowe reviewed the Chubb Trust of \$394,000 which will come to the Endowment Fund at an unspecified date. The current balance of the Endowment Fund is \$275,000 with currently expected dividends of approximately \$6,000. Darren acknowledged that UUSP has not drawn the full amount of funds allocated for 2015-16 and that was a very good thing. He stated that without healthy growth and if UUSP continues to draw on the Endowment as it has in the past, we would soon deplete the

Endowment. He explained that it is difficult to balance smart investing and growth with keeping liquid funds available for the church's immediate needs. However, at present we are accruing money.

Lori commented that while we haven't had to use all the allocated Endowment money in 2015-16, we are planning to accept the same amount of the Endowment allocation in 2016-17 so that we can raise the minister's and other staff's salaries.

### **Committee Reports**

No comments or questions.

### **Nominating Committee Report**

Lori explained that, once again, Sally Carville has agreed to remain as Acting Treasurer as the BOT continues to search for a replacement.

There were no further comments or questions.

### **Election of Officers and Trustees**

Lori Price read the proposed slate.

There were no further comments or questions.

Marilyn Barber moved to accept the slate as presented, Barbara Rowell seconded. The aye vote was unanimous, there were no objections, the slate was accepted.

### **Adoption of Proposed Budget for FY2016-17**

Lori pointed out that the total budget is \$200,229 with the majority of funds going to salaries for staff, secondly to Building and Grounds for maintaining the church and grounds.

Two people asked if that included a raise for Jack. Lori referred them to the budget which shows a substantial salary increase. She added that that was a big priority for the BOT.

Barbara Rowell pointed out that the pledge amount doesn't reach the \$200,000-plus budget. She believes the BOT is being very optimistic. Lori replied that the BOT and officers are indeed very optimistic; we are collecting well on pledges and contributions and there is more money coming in.

Lori commented that a big disappointment is that we can't pay more in dues to UUA. Teresa Kelly asked what UUA would consider a full contribution and Sally Carville stated it would be \$9,500.

Barbara Rowell pointed out that at Waldo's death, approximately \$10,000 in small donations was given in his name to the Endowment Fund. She wants to remind people that this is a good idea for others to do as a memorial.

Dave Coale moved to accept the 2016-17 budget as presented, Karen Coale seconded. All voted to approve, there were no objections, budget accepted.

### **Old Business**

None

## **New Business**

### **By-laws changes**

Lori explained that there have been many amendments made over the years and now the By-laws don't really meet the way we are doing things. The BOT has made a few basic suggestions to improve the By-laws while recognizing that there will have to be a comprehensive overhaul later.

Jane Fanning reinforced that these changes were proposed after much discussion by BOT and they are only small changes and that they have been approved by our attorney,

Lori read over the proposed changes

Gloria Marvin pointed out that the phrasing in item 3, as presented, reads "*...given through the \_ Church publications, Church bulk or, first class mail, when requested and/or electronically ...*" is grammatically incorrect and the punctuation is wrong. It should be corrected to read "*...given through the Church publications, Church bulk or first class mail when requested, and/or electronically...*".

Lori assured her it would be corrected.

Michael Pohl asked if we are in violation if we don't send notifications of the Annual Meeting to everyone by email. He said we now use Infonet which isn't an official membership list. We used to maintain an email list and may need some administrative changes. Lori said the Membership Committee should work with the Administrative Assistant to get an official list. Dani then clarified that she does maintain an official membership list and is working on updating all members' emails.

Sally Carville moved to accept the revisions to the By-laws, Deb Robinson seconded.

All voted to accept the revisions to the By-laws, none opposed, By-law revisions accepted.

Teresa Kelly made a motion to adjourn at 12:50pm, Penny Duff seconded, meeting adjourned at 12:50pm.

Submitted by Dani Skrzypek  
Clerk to the BOT