

Congregational Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2012

Meeting called to order at 1:00 pm

Congregational meeting minutes from 2011 read; motion to approve by David Urion, seconded by Kelly Kearns, and passed unanimously

Thanks were given to staff: Darrel Richey, Elizabeth Barrett, Caroline Hardin, and Julie Cross.

The fond farewell for Rev. Darrel Richey was introduced by Kim Reain; congregation members were invited to sign up to help or learn more details by speaking with her.

Colleen O'Hara introduced the interim ministry and we all watched a video about interim ministry, which taught us:

- ⤴ Interim ministry lets congregations have a time to let the congregation look at things differently.
- ⤴ Its key functions:
 - ⤴ Help the healing process
 - ⤴ Set priorities and realistic goals
 - ⤴ Model our visions and
 - ⤴ Help the congregation advance

Colleen also announced that Rev. Marlene Walker will be joining us on Sept. 1, 2012

Voting (“This is what democracy looks like”)
Budgets were distributed.

Board President Carin Bringelson explained the budget and advised everyone that it has been through 13 incarnations, and proposed passing the budget with a deficit.

Treasurer Art Hackett took questions from the floor:

- ⤴ What is the current balance? The congregation has \$5000 on hand, with an additional \$16,000 in the checking account, as we try to keep extra in the account – this is mostly earmarked.
- ⤴ What is the money being used for? Some money will have to go into the building repairs and upgrades. There are two upcoming problems: the side wall needs tuckpointing and the parking lot needs a gravel drain added, as there is water coming in which is impacting the sanctuary floor.
- ⤴ How much will those repairs cost? Around \$1200 for fixing both; we'd thought about using the line of credit, but had instead decided to hold a special fundraiser.
- ⤴ Why are our utility costs higher for FY 2012-13? MG&E has had to raise our budget utility amount because of thermostat problems. The thermostat has since been replaced.

There was a discussion of ways to raise money. It was mentioned that the economy is improving and we may get some new members. There was a proposal that everyone up their pledge in order to get closer to meeting our financial obligations. The budget was then tabled until those pledges were counted.

The nominating committee brought forward the proposed 2012-2013 members of the board of trustees: David Urion (at large), Joanne Keene (at large), John Koch (at large), Sarah Cook (president-elect), Rachel Avery (secretary). Marla McFadden motioned to confirm all of these members. Several individuals seconded and it was approved unanimously.

When counted, the additional pledges amounted to \$5,210, which almost completely covered the \$6,311 deficit in the budget. Grant Dobbe motioned to approve the budget as amended. Sarah Cook and others seconded.

The congregation discussed adopting a statement of conscience regarding over-incarceration in the state of Wisconsin:

- Whereas over-incarceration is a serious problem in the United States and the state of Wisconsin in particular;
- Whereas Wisconsin's rate of incarceration is more than two times Minnesota's rate, although the two states have very similar demographics and crime rates;
- Whereas over-incarceration has a disparate impact on people of color (more than 50% of Wisconsin prison inmates are African-American although only 6% of Wisconsin's citizens are African American),
- Whereas our congregation is named after a person who put his life on the line in the African American Civil Rights Movement;
- Whereas there are effective alternatives to incarceration of non-violent offenders;
- Whereas our principles include the inherent worth and dignity of every person; as well as justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
- Whereas our Congregational mission includes encouraging social action in the name of liberty and justice;
- Therefore be it resolved that the James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Madison Wisconsin stands in support of the 11X15 Campaign for Safer Healthier Communities which is a project of WISDOM, a statewide, interfaith social justice organization.
- Therefore be it also resolved that support can include financial gifts, use of building space, public support by our minister and use of our name in the media, and participation of our members in calls to action as part of the broader mission of the Standing on the Side of Love Campaign of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

The statement of conscience regarding over-incarceration in the state of Wisconsin was moved that this be adopted by Alice Johnson, seconded by Marla McFadden, and passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned.