

Congregational Meeting Minutes May 17, 2015

1. The meeting was called to order at 11:30 (50 eligible members out of 100 signed in; exceeded the 26 needed for a quorum)

2. The meeting agenda was posted. A budget summary, last year's congregational meeting minutes from May 18, 2014, bios of board candidates, statement of conscience on racial justice, and the Move to Amend Resolution were distributed. Later, budget materials were distributed.

3. Welcome, (chalice is already lit).

4. The agenda for the day's meeting was approved unanimously by a congregational vote (Molly Mitchell moved, Peggy Haack 2nd).

5. John Koch was the process observer, following Robert's rules of order.

6. The congregational meeting minutes from May 18, 2014 were approved unanimously by a congregational vote after correction of the misspelling of Rev. Joe Ellwanger's name. (moved by Art Hackett, 2nd by Molly Mitchell).

- To do in the future: Approve minutes from December 2014 congregational meeting.

7. Recognition of Volunteers.

- Members of committees, task forms, teams, events, and coordinators, teachers, assistants, attendees, contributors of all sorts were invited to stand up and be recognized and to receive a chalice and sticker to put on their nametags.

8. The Art Hackett Award for Going Above and Beyond was established, in honor of Art for the service he has provided since the founding of our congregation. This year's award will be given to Mary Anglim, Kelly Kearns and Rachel Avery. The golden wrench will be mounted on a plaque with a new name(s) added each year.

9. Election of Officers (presented by Sarah Cook from the Nominating Committee):

- President-Elect: Charlie McNulty
- Treasurer: Jeanne Lydon
- At-large trustees: Doug Erickson, Mary Wagner, Elaine Pridgen
- One year term to fill vacancy: Andy Soth
- Assistant Treasurer: Derek Peterson
- Nominating committee: Jan Gordon, Richard Johnson, Heike Saynisch

Art Hackett moved to vote; Molly Mitchell seconded.; unanimously approved by the congregation.

10. Board of Trustees highlights

- Welcomed and integrated our new minister
- Executive Committee attended weekend workshop on Governance and Ministry
- Convened two BOT workshops (summer and winter)
- Wrote two covenants, one for for us and one with our minister
- Wrote a philosophy of governance statement
- Supported the OWL program (Our Whole Lives, sexual education for youth).
- Said goodbye to DRE Caroline Harden, welcomed Sara Goodman.
- Began the search process for a music staff position
- Worked with our office administrator on her job role
- Developed procedures for meetings, documents, and communication.
- Reviewed board binder and policies and procedures
- Developed templates for Charges, policies and guidelines
- Had a BOT member resigned, now filled in this meeting.
- Worked with the Nominating Committee to integrate leadership learning opportunities; 2 sets of leadership RE classes were held this year.

11. Endowment/Bylaw Review. We have an endowment that currently sits in a UU fund. In 2014, an endowment committee was established. The committee proposed an amendment to the bylaws to establish guidelines for the use of the endowment. We were planning to have the congregation vote about this at this meeting. However, in the interests of allowing more time for the congregation to learn about this and provide feedback on the text; we will postpone this vote to a future congregational meeting established for this purpose.

12. Vote on Statement of Conscience on Racial Justice, written by the PJS (Peace, Justice and Sustainability) group. Congregational approval of this Statement will allow us to broaden our work on racial equity beyond prison reform (e.g., beyond MOSES/WISDOM work which has been voted on previously), to support anything that is on this statement of conscience. For example, this allows us to offer our space to groups, and participate in marches carrying our JRUUC UU banner; allows our minister to say that JRUUC supports various things going on in the name of JRUUC; allows us to say that JRUUC supports anything represented by this document. We need 4/5 of votes to approve this.

- A long discussion ensued about which terminology to capitalize or not. We had a motion to edit the document (Elaine Pridgen) to decapitalize “Communities of Color” and “People of Color.” Sandra Person seconded and this was approved unanimously.
- Since people of color often capitalize “Black,” there was a sentiment to keep it that way, unless it was quoted from another source in lower case. This involved a few motions, one that was not approved (to decapitalize “Black” in 2 separate instances, proposed by Elaine Pridgen); and then one to correct the quoted segment to its original source, changing “Black” to “black” in bullet 6 since that was part of a quote, and leaving “Black”=“Black” in bullet 8

(proposed by Virginia Harrison, motioned to vote on by Joan Kemble, seconded by Sandra Person), which were approved unanimously by the congregation.

- Marla McFadden called for a vote on the amendment after the edits are made, and this was approved unanimously by the congregation.

13. “Move to Amend” Resolution. This is a movement to amend the United States Constitution to establish that only human beings, not corporations, unions or other entities are endowed with constitutional rights and that money is not speech. Many UU congregations have supported this. The UUA supports this. We would be the first Wisconsin congregation to support this. The resolution was read outloud and a discussion followed where several concerns were raised, e.g., “This could blow up the constitution,” “Do I want to throw away the protections it would offer me in my business?,” “I’m not sure it agrees with our UU values and covenant.” There was concern that this is an opinion statement and we should have a unanimous feel towards it if we approve it, which we don’t at this point. Art Hackett moved that we table this resolution, which was approved unanimously. We will have more discussions about this in the future.

14. Budget for 2015-2016

- The current pledges in the budget for 2015-2016 total \$145,860; our goal was \$149,679. Our goal was to have a 100% return rate on pledge forms and we’re up to 90%.
- We have a budget surplus of \$10K. We earmarked some of this surplus (\$1543.07) to balance our budget
- The remainder of surplus will go into reserve accounts (effectively savings accounts).
- One reason the budget went up is that we moved some items into the budget that had been previously supplied by donors.
- We also increased pay of 4 of the 5 employees so that all 5 are at UUA fair share rate.
- We increased the office administrator’s hours to 20 hours per week. This includes retirement benefits and 40% of health insurance costs (we pay 80% for a fulltime rate, so at half-time that is 40%).
- We increased UUA/Regional dues by 20% as part of our goal to reach to fair share.
- Nothing in budget reflects the chalice lighter grant that will be submitted this summer
- Virginia moved to accept budget; Art seconded; unanimously approved.

15. Extinguish chalice.

16. Raffle Drawing.