

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia Minutes of June 15, 2014 Annual Meeting

Attendance

There were 68 Voting Members present: Joan Amundson, Carita Barr, Virginia Beale, Linda Brennon (Board of Trustees), Dorothy (Dot) Brown, James Burton, Jean Capalbo, Ann Cargill, Sandy Chubon (Board of Trustees), Thomas Clements, Ivy Coleman (Co-President), Jerry Cover, David Crockett, Richard Culler, Andrea Derrick, Linda Doctor, Carol Dodson, Don Dodson, Marc Drews (Board of Trustees), Patty Drews, Caroline Eastman (Board of Trustees), Gertrude Edge, Ron Edge, Bradley Edwards, Martha Edwards, Teresa Evans, Gareth Fenley, Kelley Freeman, Hal French, Donald Griggs, Anita Grossman, Elizabeth Harris, Robin Hightower, Rev. Neal Jones (Minister), Betsy Kaemmerlen, Buzzie Kelly (Board of Trustees), Michael Kelly, John Logue, David Long, Sharon L. Matchett, Lee Minghi, Marilyn Miss, Pat Mohr, Regina Moody (Board of Trustees), Jerry Moore (Board of Trustees), Sarah Pregnall, Joyce Rodgers, Tiffany Rushton, Robin Scherer (Co-President), Angela Shaw-Thornburg, Larry Siegel, Michael Sullivan, Alison Thirkield, Dillard Thompson, Lis Turner, Phil Turner (Board of Trustees), Judy Turnipseed, Tom Turnipseed, Timothy VanDenBerg, Ginny Verne, Jim Verne, Michael Walker, Joan Watterson, Carolyn West, Keitha Whitaker, Maude Whitaker, Robert Whitaker (Board of Trustees), and Glenn White.

Call to Order and Establishment of Quorum

The meeting was called to order by Robin Scherer, Co-President, at 12:13 p.m. She noted a quorum was present (the quorum being 25% of the membership of 193, or 49 members).

Approval of Minutes

Buzzie Kelly, Board Secretary, provided copies of the minutes of the June 9, 2013 Annual Meeting and the January 12, 2014 Congregational Meeting. **Approval of the June 9, 2013 meeting minutes was moved by Phil Turner, seconded by Jerry Moore, and passed unanimously. Approval of the January 12, 2014 congregational meeting minutes was moved by Joan Watterson, seconded by Betsy Kaemmerlen, and passed unanimously.**

President's Report to the Congregation

Ivy Coleman gave a PowerPoint presentation that provided a summary of our highlights in the past year:

- The Minister's sabbatical took place, requiring the scheduling of guest ministers and taking on additional duties.
- A new Director of Religious Education and Assistant Director and a part-time bookkeeper were hired.
- Volunteers filled in Administrator duties during her medical absence.
- Relationship building continued, with various groups, an annual retreat at the Mountain, Circle Suppers, and other activities for members and friends.
- Our Religious Education Program continues to be active, including Hogwarts Camp in the summer, multi-generational services, several workshops from invited speakers, and the adoption of a comprehensive Safety Policy for Children and Youth Served.
- Our Outreach/Social Action activities included: Shandon Tour of Homes, Christmas gifts for Families Helping Families, meal service at Transitions, participation in the Pride March, formation of the LGBTQ Outreach Membership sub-committee, Truthful Tuesday at SC State House, and another UU Coffeehouse season.

- Building and Grounds implemented a new lock system; completed a contract to repaint the exterior sanctuary windows; removed the stage and created a storage room; revised the design of the Memorial Garden, completed fundraising, and signed a contract for Phase I construction; installed windows in the doors of the RE wing; and planned and installed art exhibits in the Social Hall and display case in the foyer.
- A balanced budget was created for 2014-2015, loan consolidation and refinancing were completed, and Share the Plate donations to local charities continued.

Election of Officers and Trustees

On a motion from Jerry Moore, seconded by Ann Cargill, it was unanimously agreed to elect the Board nominated slate of officers and trustees in bulk.

The Board of Trustees positions were as follows:

Officers

President-Elect: Marc and Patty Drews
 Secretary: Sandy Chubon

Trustees

Barbara Beeler
 Janet Swigler
 Caroline Eastman (filling in the last year of Sandy Chubon’s term)
 Richard Culler (filling in the last year of Marc Drews’ term)

The recommendation to extend two appointments on the Leadership Development Committee an additional year was not published 15 days prior to the Congregational Meeting as required in the Bylaws. **On a motion from Carolyn West, seconded by Larry Siegel, a waiver of the requirement was passed. On a motion from Dot Brown, seconded by Robin Hightower, the congregation approved the one-year extension of the terms of Joan Watterson and Anita Grossman to the Leadership Development Committee.**

The recommendation to extend an appointment on the Endowment Committee an additional year was not published 15 days prior to the Congregational Meeting as required in the Bylaws. **On a motion from Carolyn West, seconded by Lee Minghi, a waiver of the requirement was passed. On a motion from Tiffany Rushton, seconded by Pat Mohr, the congregation approved the nomination of Phil Turner for an additional 1-year term on the Endowment Committee.**

Bylaws Revisions

Sandy Chubon presented the rationale for the Bylaws revisions being proposed:

CHANGE THE NAME OF THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE TO THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

This will differentiate that committee from the Adult Religious Education Committee. Children and Youth Religious Education is the terminology that is currently being used by some other UU congregations in the area.

ESTABLISH THE ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE AS A STANDING COMMITTEE

Adult Religious Education Committee – The Adult Religious Education Committee should consist of a Chair and two or more Members or Friends of the Congregation. The Adult Religious Education Committee shall:

1. Implement, oversee, and evaluate the religious education program for adults
2. Recommend to the Board and implement policies related to Adult Religious Education

ESTABLISH THE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES COMMITTEE AS A STANDING COMMITTEE

Technology Services Committee – The Technology Services Committee should consist of a Chair and two or more Members or Friends of the Congregation. The Technology Services Committee shall:

1. Recruit, train, and supervise individuals who provide audiovisual support during worship services and other congregational meetings or events
2. Recommend policies and procedures for the security of technology equipment and systems and for the operation and maintenance of the congregational website
3. Provide training in the use of technology equipment and systems, including the congregational website
4. Help troubleshoot problems with technology equipment and systems
5. Provide recommendations for the purchase of new technology equipment and systems

After some discussion, **adoption of the revisions to the Bylaws was moved by Buzzie Kelly, seconded by Robin Scherer, and passed unanimously.**

Adoption of 2014-2015 Budget

At Robin's request, Mike Sullivan, Co-Chair of the Finance Committee, presented the balanced budget of \$253,296 developed by the Finance Chair, the Finance Committee, and recommended by the Board. It represents an 8% decrease in revenues and expenses from the 2013-2014 budget, due in large part because of a 10% drop in membership. To offset the decrease in revenues and in order to create a balanced budget, Buildings and Grounds' expenses have been separated from Capital Improvements and only includes ongoing maintenance, no funds were allocated for a Music Coordinator, and our GIFT contribution has been lowered from 7% to 5%.

In the discussion of questions from the floor, it was noted that if revenues increase over what is budgeted, some of the requests for funding will be restored based on Board priorities.

A motion was made by Mike Sullivan, seconded by Dave Crockett, to adopt the 2014-2015 budget as presented. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Robin at 12:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Buzzie Kelly, Secretary, UUCB Board of Trustees