

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF COLUMBIA

Minutes of Annual Meeting June 7, 2015

Attendance

Carita Barr, Jenny Beale, Alex Borum, Linda Brennison, Dot Brown, Jim Burton, Jean Capalbo, Ann Cargill, Sandy Chubon, David Crockett, Richard Culler, Andrea Derrick, Peck Drennan, Rebecca Drennan, Marc Drews, Patty Drews, Andrea Dudick, Brian Dudick, Caroline Eastman, Gertrude Edge, Ron Edge, Shannon Edwards, Ceren Farr, Gareth Fenley, Dot Fishburne, Julia Frazer-Madge, Suzan Garland, Dana Gilchrist, Donald Griggs, Anita Grossman, Sej Harman, Star Henderson, Devon Hicks, Connie Hudson, Betsy Kaemmerlen, Buzzie Kelly, Mike Kelly, Jessica Kross, John Logue, Joe Long, David Long, Mary Maclachlan, Morgan Maclachlan, Joe Madge, Sharon Matchett, Linda McLeod, Richard McLeod, Lee Minghi, Marilyn Miss, Pat Mohr, Regina Moody, Tiffany Rushton, Patrick Saucier, Larry Siegel, Maureen Stahl, Michael Sullivan, Janet Swigler, Lis Turner, Phil Turner, Tim VanDenBerg, Ginny Verne, Jim Verne, Carolyn West, Keitha Whitaker, Bob Whitaker, Glenn White.

Call to Order and Establishment of Quorum

President Regina Moody called the meeting to order. Sandy Chubon, Secretary, confirmed there was a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 11, 2015 Congregational Meeting were approved as circulated.

President's Report for 2014-2015

Regina circulated a written report of UUCC activities of the fiscal year ending July 31, 2015. (See Appendix A.) She spoke about some of the highlights of that report.

Election of Officers and Committee Members

The Leadership and Development Committee presented the following slate:

President-Elect - Phil Turner

Treasurer - Linda Brennison (2 year term)

Trustees (2 year terms)

Richard Culler

Donald Griggs

Tim VanDenBerg

Leadership Development Committee (2 year terms)

Andrea Derrick

Buzzie Kelly

Endowment Committee

Sej Harman (3 year term)

Jessica Kross (1 year term)

The entire slate was elected.

Suspension of UUC Shared Ministry Committee

The UUA recommends that the Shared Ministry Committee be suspended during the period in which the Interim Minister is employed. **Keitha Whitaker moved that members of the Shared Ministry Committee (SMC) be relieved of their obligations during this time period.** Joe Long seconded the motion. Keitha explained that when we get a settled minister in two years s/he is not likely to choose the current SMC members. Meanwhile, the committee members are not allowed to chair any other committees. **The motion was amended to say that SMC members will be excused from their commitments to that committee. The amendment was approved. The amended motion passed.**

Bylaws Change

The Membership Committee proposed a change to Section B. Committees, 8.1 Standing Committees (j) Membership Committee.

Current: The Membership Committee shall consist of a Chair and five or more Members or Friends of the Congregation.

Change to: The Membership Committee shall consist of a Chair and five or more Members of the Congregation.

Patty Drews explained the rationale for the change. A major responsibility of the committee is to encourage new attendees to become members and to pledge. It seems reasonable and congruent that the people urging others to be members should be members themselves. **Ginny Verne moved acceptance of the bylaw change.** Buzzie Kelly seconded. **The motion passed.**

Gertrude Edge asked whether we have a greeters' committee or are greeters all members of the Membership Committee. It was explained that greeters do not need to be Members of the Congregation or the Membership Committee; they are recruited, trained, and coordinated by the Membership Committee. Currently Gareth Fenley coordinates the greeters; we have 18.

2015-2016 Budget

A document was circulated showing the budget for 2014-2015 and the proposed budget for 2015-2016. Dot Brown and Bob Whitaker led the discussion of the budget. Pledge cards are still coming in this week

and those funds are being placed in the Board Contingency Fund to keep the budget in balance. Dot pointed out the Rev. Jennie Barrington's salary is only for 11 months because she will not start until August 1. A question was raised about why guest minister costs are the same for both years. The response was that we had a lot of guest ministers this year and we expect that cost to be the same in the new year. Another question was why the DRE's wages were increased so much (from \$24,800 to \$30,888). Her hours have been increased and salary adjustments were made to get all our employees to the midpoint of the range the UUA recommends for churches of our size and geographical region.

Morgan Maclachlan noted that Sarah Pregnell has agreed to coordinate music for Sunday services. He referred to this as the beginning of professionalization of music for the congregation and he urged that Sarah become a member of the UU Musicians Network. They are a very active group, they hold an annual convention, they certify people to lead music ministry much as the UUA certifies RE personnel. Dues are not expensive and Morgan encouraged the Congregation to pay them for our music coordinator.

Betsy Kaemmerlen moved that we adopt the budget. Jim Verne seconded. **The motion passed.**

Adjournment

Carolyn West moved that the meeting be adjourned. Patty Drews seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes recorded by

Sandy Chubon, Secretary

APPENDIX A

President's Report to the Congregation

June 7, 2015

The state of the UUCC is strong and continues to attract and keep new members. Attendance at worship services and in the Sunday school has remained steady. During the past year there has been an increased manifestation of ownership for a rich variety of activities with an increase in program offerings and in their participation.

During 2014-2015, community-building was boosted through Circle Suppers, a Members' and Friends' annual retreat at The Mt. and another UU Coffeehouse season. A week's visit by Rev. Zsolt of our Partner Church in Transylvania (Beszterce Unitarian church) was a transformative event!

The Board of Trustees continued its efforts to review church policies and created procedures for greater accountability. A Facilities Assessment Task Force was established and a Staff Compensation Study is underway.

It was with surprise and sadness that we learned that Neal, our long-time and much loved minister, had taken a position at a larger congregation in Pennsylvania. In April we began a period of ministerial transition utilizing UUA guidelines to continue with the strength and purpose we have so surely manifested.

Highlights of the year include:

CYRE (Children & Youth Religious Education)

A new Director of Religious Education and a new R.E. Assistant were hired. Multi-generational services including *A UU Dicken's Christmas* and *Old Turtle & the Broken Truth* were thoughtful and creative. Fundraisers such as Santa's Shop, the Chocolate Auction, and the Beltane and Crafters' Fair benefited next year's Boston Heritage trip. An O.W.L. cycle for 4th through 6th grades began in February. There was attendance at CONs at The Mt. and High Schooler's service at Howlmore Animal Sanctuary. The UUCC garden had renewed attention and plans for the return of Hogwarts Summer Camp are underway.

Worship

An inspirational and informative variety of services were offered with special seasonal observances including the Cornbread Communion, a Christmas Eve service and Flower Communion. Music by our three choirs and occasional guest performances were well received.

Membership

Visitor Orientations (and the new Visitor's Packet) are an important offering. There was a Joining Service and new member dinner in the fall. The church-wide photo directory made recognition of members and friends much easier. The committee coordinated with Social Action

in its participation in Columbia's Pride Parade. A very successful Opportunity Fair was held to inform members and friends of our numerous programs and committees. There were informal fun events such as the annual holiday party at the Turner's and the end-of-a-successful-canvass picnic sponsored by the Finance Committee.

Social Action

See the upcoming *Unigram* for the complete annual report of this dynamic committee. Highlights include **service projects**: Transitions, Seeds of Hope, Harvest Hope Food Bank, Free Medical Clinic. Participation in **public demonstrations**: Peace Walk against gun violence, King Day at the Dome, NAMI Minds on Main Walk. **Fundraiser**: Guest at your Table. **Share-the-Plate** recipients included: Carolina Wildlife Center, the Women's Shelter, Doctors without Borders, Food Not Bombs, Howlmore Animal Sanctuary, Congaree River Keeper and the Minister's Discretionary Fund.

Animal Ministry

The year's accomplishments include support of Pawmetto Lifeline, the Blessing of the Animals, Bark to the Park, and sponsorship of the ethical eating film "Planeat."

Caring & Hospitality

The committee faithfully ministered to those with special needs throughout the year. Their more visible and under-sung service was providing refreshments and cleanup at Sunday's coffee hour.

Finance

Fall Flings were a successful fundraising as well as relationship-building activity. In conjunction with the Membership Committee, effort was made to clarify the definition of *Member* with the addition of a pledge payment requirement added to the Bylaws at the January 2015 congregational meeting.

Building & Grounds

The Memorial & Meditation Garden was completed. Building doors were attended to: a replacement door for the library, re-vamping the handicap closing mechanism at the main entrance, and adding a railing at the week-day entrance. Two landscaping work days were held and several shrubs planted. Old signage on the building was removed in preparation for an upgrade. The kitchen project was completed and wall-hung shelves were added to the large storage room. Custodian storage was shifted so that RE materials had their own storage closet on the classroom hall. The rotating art exhibits in the social hall continued into its fifth year.

Technology Services

Routine Sunday services were provided for as well as an investigation of personal wireless microphones to aid the hearing impaired. A comprehensive sound equipment inventory was completed to distinguish between regular UUCS and Coffeehouse equipment. Watch for the launching in the next few weeks of our newly designed website. It will have an elegant and

streamlined look that will appeal and make clear our message of a safe and welcoming place to pursue spiritual growth and community.

June 7, 2015

Regina Moody

President UUCB Board of Trustees