

UUCWI Congregational Meeting
June 18, 2017

Forty (40) members present; quorum achieved.

Welcome

UUCWI Board President Sarah Richards welcomed all to the annual congregational meeting.

Chalice Lighting

Rev. Dennis Richards reminded the congregation of the importance of the annual congregational meeting as a commitment to the democratic process, one of our seven principles. Sarah lit the chalice.

Last Year's Congregational Meeting Minutes

Suzanne Reynolds moved to approve the 2016 Congregational Meeting minutes; Joann Roomes seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Recognition of Extraordinary Service

On behalf of the UUCWI Board, Board secretary Clara Beier presented awards to a number of congregants who have displayed exemplary service. The first was Sarah Richards who served as UUCWI Board president for two years. Clara lauded Richards for her tenacity and guidance. In appreciation, the Board gave Richards a gift certificate to a restaurant in Coupeville. The other recipients were folks who have done extraordinary work behind the scenes. Present were Terra Anderson and Joann Roomes. Terra has worked tirelessly as chair the Worship committee, among other roles, and Joann works with the children every Sunday, arriving early and preparing the classroom. She also gifts all of us, young and old, with her wonderful storybook reading many Sundays. Absent, but recognized nonetheless, were Larry Morrell and Laurie Riley for their two-plus years planning and executing the auction. David Davis was recognized for serving as our treasurer and sorting out our finances. Donna Davis was honored for chairing the Care and Connections committee ensuring rides to church and meals delivered for fellow congregants in need.

Rev. Dennis led us in recitation of our affirmation and proceeded to dedicate his second annual Minister's Hero Award. Recipients are church members who apply our affirmation in exemplary ways in the real world. Last year's recipient was Lois Chown. Gene Berg received the 2017 award. Gene is not only vigilant in his care for our grounds and facilities but also serves many other roles in the congregation: greeting visitors to our services, serving as usher on Sundays, conducting home visits to folks needing extra support or a kind word, and serving as chair of our 2017 stewardship campaign.

Budget

Sarah explained that our canvass income came in lower than expected this year. She attributed this shortfall, in part, to our little congregation's struggle to determine a clear vision on how we want to spend our energy (both financial and personal efforts). Our Long Range Plan Committee

is working hard to find out what our members see as both important and possible for the whole of the congregation. That process is not yet complete. Also, our membership fluctuates a little every year, as we lose some to mostly death or moving away, and we gain some as people move here or discover us in various ways.

To compensate, the Board has decided to make a few small trims to the expenses where possible, keeping in mind that many of our expenses are locked in, such as the mortgage payment, insurance costs, and basic utilities. The balance of the resulting deficit budget will be drawn from our reserves — of which we have enough to cover this year's shortfall. However, we cannot have a deficit budget in the future, so this year should be a year of clarifying vision and looking reasonably at what is financially possible for our congregation.

The few increases in the budget are largely in the area of personnel. The pay rates that we have been providing are below the market norm for our area. This evaluation is from various sources, including the UUA. It is important to pay people at reasonable levels; when our current staff leaves, we will need to pay at market level rates to attract new staff who will be the most valuable to our congregation. To help with this year's situation, Rev. Dennis has offered to take one month off without pay to relieve the deficit, but we have also given him a pay raise.

Eileen Soskin moved to approve the budget for 2017-2018, as presented by the Board. Rick Weiss seconded.

Discussion centered on the elements of the budget that were cut, such as the budgets for Care and Connections funds and Social and Environmental Justice. Tom Buxton explained that the funds cut were largely one time requests and not requested again for the current year. Savings have also been realized by operating the Children's Religious Exploration program with volunteers, namely Joann Rooms, Teri Wright, Rhonda Salerno, and Judy Kaplan.

Another expense that cannot be negotiated is the UUA Fair Share that requires us to pay \$87.00 per member. This figure increased this year due to a more accurate member count.

The discussion turned to avenues to save and/or raise more money. Suggestions included closing the church for one month a year, reducing the number of services offered by the congregation, and raising more money from the broader community through fundraising events (e.g., concert series) and rentals.

Frances Wood extended thanks to those who put the budget together.

Eileen moved to close the debate and vote. Two-thirds of the congregants present were in favor of the motion and ready to vote.

Vote: 25 voted in favor of the 2017-2018 budget; 11 opposed. Motion passed.

Election of Board and Nominating Committee

Before introducing the nominees, Sarah Richards expressed her gratitude for the honor of serving this congregation. She noted that she is now part of the Past President's Club. She reminded folks that comments of past presidents are now on our website. Such comments may provide special support for those who lead in the future.

The slate of nominees:

Board of Trustees

- President: Rick Weiss
- Vice-President: Mary Ann Imkamp
- Treasurer: John Fetrow
- Secretary: Clara Beier
- Trustee at Large: John Long
- Trustee at Large: Teri Wright
- Trustee at Large: Richard Hayes

Nominating Committee

- Mavis Cauffman
- Joann Roomes
- Mary Goolsby

Sarah moved that to elect the nominees for the offices as presented; Effie Brown seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Eileen moved to adjourn the meeting. John Long seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.