

## **Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Wilmington Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes, June 2017**

Date: June 4, 2017, 11:30 AM

Meeting Called By: Eden Avery, President.

Secretary: Bill Singleton.

BOT Members Attending: Eden Avery, President, Patricia Forrest, Vice President; Marvin Fineman, Treasurer; Bill Singleton, Secretary; Tammy Ellison, John Grigsby, Roxie Morison, Barbara Wolk, Ex-officio: Rev. Cheryl M. Walker.

BOT Members Absent: Jennifer Paetzold-Garcia

Staff: Sue Graffius: Director of Religious Education (DRE).

Congregational Members: 62 UUCW Members present.

### **Agenda**

- 1) Tammy and John conducted the Chalice lighting.
- 2) Eden called the meeting to order.
  - a) The members read the mission of the UUCW.
  - b) Eden noted accomplishments of the past year:
    - i) Twelve new members joined.
    - ii) The church was awarded “Church of the Year” by the NHC NAACP following the “Souls to the Polls” and outreach programs.
    - iii) The church auction and other successful fundraising programs were performed.
    - iv) A quilters groups was started.
    - v) The congregation began the “Share the Plate” experiment to share half of weekly collections with a designated charity.
  - c) The Board made significant progress toward becoming a policy-based board and developed a Vision Statement for the congregation.
- 3) Barbara remembered the members that passed away in the last year. Pat noted the service of the retiring Board members, Eden, Marvin and Roxie.
- 4) A quorum was determined with 62 of 208 members in attendance.
- 5) Rick Nida was unanimously elected Parliamentarian of the meeting.
- 6) Election of Candidates:
  - a) Jessica Holm, chair of the Nominating Committee, announced the slate of Board candidates: Bob Holm, Karen Gottovi and Don Smith.

- b) Following a motion to approve the Board candidates the members voted unanimously to approve them.
  - c) Jessica also announced the slate of Nominating Committee candidates: Heidi Kaufmann Maggie Parrish and Mary Clark.
  - d) Following a motion to approve the Nominating Committee candidates the members voted unanimously to approve them.
- 7) Bylaw Amendments:
- a) Roxie reviewed the proposed bylaw amendments:
    - i) To make the Treasurer’s role independent of the Board starting with the 2018—2019 fiscal year.
    - ii) Defining the Board responsibilities.
    - iii) Adjusting the terms of the Nominating Committee candidates.
  - b) Following a motion to approve the Bylaw amendments, Rick led the discussion of the Bylaw articles one by one, focusing particularly on Articles 5, 6 and 7.
    - i) Article 5 was discussed regarding allowing Board candidates to be nominated from the floor at a congregational meeting. A motion to allow this change did not pass.
    - ii) Article 6 was discussed regarding Board responsibilities. Dave Morison suggested language to keep the article in line with NC statutes governing non-profit corporations. A motion to accept his modified language passed.
    - iii) Article 7 regarding changing the role of the Treasurer was discussed. A motion to approve it as written passed.
  - c) The original motion to approve the Bylaws as amended was called for a vote and passed unanimously.
- 8) Treasurer’s Report
- a) Marvin noted an anonymous donation of \$23K, which brought the annual budget in the black by \$2K, though the congregation is behind on fulfilling pledges for the year by \$24K.
  - b) He also said that the church has not spent all of its planned expenses for the year. The Share the Plate experiment has been a success, with more money coming from the church’s share of the collections than it would normally have gotten without the experiment.
- 9) Budget for 2017-2018
- a) Marvin briefly reviewed the budget, commenting that pledges had fallen far short of a “thriving congregation level” and actually put the budget \$4K under last year’s budget total.

- b) Following a motion to approve the budget as presented it was unanimously approved.

#### 10) Minister's Letter of Agreement

- a) Pat reviewed the proposed changes to the Minister's Letter of Agreement.
  - i) Most of the changes were updating "Fellowship" to "Congregation" in reference to the church, and changing the UUCW's UUA district to the new name of "Southeast District."
  - ii) The final changes were to allow the minister to delegate responsibility for the pulpit as appropriate rather than having continuous responsibility for it.
- b) Following a motion to approve the Minister's Letter it was unanimously approved.

#### 11) Church Motto

- a) Bill explained the background of the Motto Contest and the results of the voting which had occurred the previous two Sundays, reducing 37 mottos submitted to a final four candidates, which had received 57% of the votes cast.
- b) A paper ballot was conducted. Immediately after the meeting adjourned the votes were counted.
  - i) The result was that Pat Forrest's submission: "Love, Learn, Live, Give" was the winner with 17 out of 46 votes.
  - ii) The other candidate mottos received the following votes: "Affirming the journey of the soul, curiosity of the mind, and courage in the community" 10/46; "Make Friends, Do Some Good, Grow Your Soul" 10/46, and "Diverse, Inclusive and United in Spirit" 9/46.

#### 12) UUA Presidential Voting

- a) Rev. Cheryl discussed the need to select among three candidates for the new UUA president.
- b) A paper ballot was conducted. The results were:
  - i) Alison B. Miller 20
  - ii) Susan Fredrick Gray 14
  - iii) Jeanne Pupke 9
  - iv) These results will allow our delegates to the UUA General Assembly to vote for the candidates in that order.

#### 13) The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 PM.