

## MINUTES OF THE UUSG ANNUAL MEETING, MAY 15, 2016

**1. Rev. Lindsay Bates led the lighting of the Chalice and Call to Order**

**2. Rev. Lindsay Bates presented a Certificate of Gratitude to Katie Phillips** for her 10 years of outstanding service as Congregational Administrator. Katie received a gift and a standing ovation from a very grateful congregation. Christine Imielski has been hired to take over as Administrator.

**3. The Agenda for the meeting was approved.**

**4. Hal Schulman presented the Bylaws Changes.** There were seven main changes for three main reasons: (1) to catch up with current practices including membership post-MPC class; (2) to synchronize with the UUSG master planning calendar, such as all Board and Council positions coordinate with the fiscal year; and (3) to allow for more efficient results moving forward, e.g. mid-term Presidential succession. Hal answered a question as to why the 60 day waiting period to be a voting member is being dropped saying it was no longer needed since all new UUs take a scheduled class for membership indicating their commitment and understanding to join UUSG, and thus we no longer have a concern about "last minute" joiners for the possible purpose of "skewing the voting". Lou Pierce moved to approve the Bylaws changes and Pat O'Malley seconded. The motion passed on a majority voice vote, plus 1 opposed and 2 abstentions.

**5. Jim Frasier presented the Slate for the FY2017 Board of Directors and Nominating committee** and recognized the present Board members. Ballots were filled out and submitted for counting.

**6. President Bill Scown then presented the State of the Church** highlights including hiring Asst Minister Scott Talbot Lewis, Church School Coordinator Cathi Plass, and Congregational Administrator Christine Imielski.

We had excellent LRE classes, with 50 volunteers and the YRUU Habitat for Humanity summer build. The WOW Team responded to 70 requests producing approximately 150 practical caring action. The Communications Team delivered a new UUSG website with the new branding of "Come As You Are", new videos and news releases. The Hospitality Team facilitated the social hours and Homecoming Picnic with increased attendance.

President Scown also pointed out that the Social Justice Team has coordinated several actions including expanded monthly participation at the Northern Illinois Food Bank and Lazarus House. It is also cooperating with other churches on several projects to become a force for good in the community. A new Women's Forum has started. In addition, the Welcoming Team presented seven new UUs courses and the Board negotiated our property expansion to include the 3<sup>rd</sup> street addition.

Good progress has been made on the Board Five year goals:

- Growth to achieve our vision: the 5-year goal is 10% annual growth; so far we have 4%, so we are growing, but slowly.
- Make a positive difference in our community: the Communication team branding is already producing more interest. We have exceeded our goals for Beyond Our Walls (BOW) participation from 5,000 hours to 6,548 hours so far (40%) and increased giving from a \$17,500 goal to \$22,000.
- Congregational engagement has increased from an average worship attendance 167 last year to 190 this year so far. Bill stated that 80% of congregation is involved in at least one project or ministry.
- Facility and staffing that support our vision: Because of the successful Pledge Drive, the new budget meets the UUA guidelines this year for fair compensation. A plan with key decision dates for the building has been made, but must await steady increases in growth and finances.
- Align finances to meet our vision: The successful pledge drive exceeded our goal with a 16% growth in pledges for FY2017. President Scown thanked Kevin Beyer and Lisa Gades, Pledge coordinators, and Kathy Cornell, director of the Stewardship Team. He emphasized that deficit has been reduced by more than half, and some music has been restored and salaries brought up to the UUA guidelines. He also thanked the Board for their hard work as he will be stepping down at the end of the Fiscal Year. He did caution, however, that we need continued growth in membership and pledges to support our expanded staff, programs and facilities, that we are not giving enough to our Social Justice causes or contributing our fair share to UUA and that we still have a deficit budget.

**7. Bob Swanson presented the FY2016 Financial Report**, which was better than anticipated. Ten months into the year, the budgeted deficit of \$50,000 probably will be around \$25,000. Several entrepreneurial initiatives, such as selling poinsettias (\$200) at Christmas, the New2U initiative of Jan Miller (\$700), and rental of the Third St. Land (\$1500) have brought in more funds. Fewer expenses because of a mild winter and time filling vacancies also contributed.

**8. Kevin O'Neill presented the new FY2017 Budget** and reminded us that People (Ministers, administration, church school), Place (insurance, maintenance and utilities) and Programs (UUA, LRE, Hospitality, 14 others and growing) make up our budget. ,

The personal contacts during the Pledge Drive yielded an increase from \$300,000 to \$350,000 this year including 27 new pledge units and increased pledges by 131. 20 people increased their pledges to generate \$11,500 in matching funds. He stated that we need to do this again next year, and showed a chart that that when the separate assistant minister fund stops in 2 more years, there will be a need for contributors to fold that money into their pledges and the general fund. With income up by about 18%, and staff compensation and program and property projects, we are able to hold the FY2017 deficit below \$25,000. However, the deficit will still increase unless revenue grows. run out. We have a great start, but need to increase. Reserves should be about 1 year of

income, or about \$500,000.

### **9. Debbie Leoni led a Congregational Discussion** (Debbie Leoni)

Suggestions and discussion:

Jeanne Neltner requested the return of the Saturday night services, but at this time, there is not enough money.

Peter Coe suggested that we have more programs aimed at the wider community.

Others commented on the amazing talent we have in the church and that the music is inspiring.

What brings you to church? Sermons are informing, thought provoking, the worship experience is important...Content of the experience, feeling inspired, exploring more difficult topics, the sermons.

Some felt that more exposure in social media celebrating us is needed.

Trish Beckjord suggest more marketing and that we need more ideas than just Facebook.

Articles in the paper? Marketing more events and inviting the wider community.

We need to share with friends more about our church.

We could participate in larger fundraising not affiliated with church.

Partnering with other organizations

Roger Tilbrook said that old fogies need paper copies of the Pioneer.

Bill Scown said we do bring in people besides members for the Cookie walk, Steeple walk, this year we hosted the Geneva film festival.

Debbie Leoni then posed: "what might your next role be?" Do you see yourself as a budding leader?

Should do more with organizations open housing

Invite more to come to church

Scott has given a course and will give another in the fall on articulating your UU faith.

Eileen talked to a young Moms who came –wanted to meet other young Moms—new group?

Page—human library—social inventory of members

Reach out to young adults after they go to college? There will be a new Habitat trip for young adults.

### **10. Election Results**, Presentation of FY2017 Board of Directors and Nominating Committee

President: Jean Pierce (1-year term)

Vice President, Program Council: Debbie Leoni (1-year term)

Vice President, Administrative Council: Nancy Christensen (1-year term)

Secretary: Pat Vary (1-year term)

Treasurer: Bob Swanson (1-year term)

Assistant Treasurer: Jim O'Malley (1-year term)

Director: Kathy Cornell (/She will be completing 2nd year of term for person she replaced - Patricia Burch)

Director: Gail Tattersfield (2 year term - she is replacing Jennifer Klein

who

was completing 2nd year of 2-year term)

Director: Cindy Vacek (Beginning 1st year of 2-year term)

Director: Dave Moore (2 year-term - completing second year of his 2 year term)

Nominating Committee:

Jim Frazier (Chair)

Ali Lanthrum

Jim King

Bill presented a fur horned hat to Jean Pierce

Jean Pierce said her goals for next year are: relationship building and fundraising auction, a great 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary

She also announced that the new Michael Moore's movie will be shown soon and on May 31, Peace marchers marching from Chicago to protest the new 1900 solitary confinement cells planned for Thompson prison. They will stay overnight at the church with Jeanne Neltnor also staying, and will have a potluck dinner and give a talk at 7:00 pm.

**11. New Business – Social Media Team:** Brian Doyle, Becky Hruby (also Ali Lanthrum and Katie Yurkewicz) have been meeting since March. They will teach anyone about social media.

Starting with Facebook, the focus is on UUSG members and friends, and to promote a distinctive UUSG "personality"

Join Facebook and "Like" UUSGs [facebook.com/uusg1](https://www.facebook.com/uusg1)

They are promoting events such as Friday flicks: select "see first" under the "Like" menu to display UUSG content at the top of your news feed.

3) Connect with your uusg friends on FB

Another goal is to strengthen and sustain relationships during the week, build our network and create social trust

What's in it for me? An opportunity to feature UUSG ministry teams/groups and YOUU programs/events There are 750 people so far on Facebook

Send content, photos.

Contributions needs to be RELEVANT to the UUSG community

Geneva Library has classes on social media and technology for anyone interested

**12. Closing (Rev. Lindsay Bates)**

Submitted by Pat Vary, Board Secretary