

JRUUC Congregational Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2016

Convener: Virginia Harrison, President, Board of Trustees

Barb Whitney, Secretary, Board of Trustees

Sarah Cook, Parliamentarian

Group Photo of Congregation

The meeting was called to order at approximately noon. 52 members out of 107 eligible members signed in. This exceeded the 27 needed for a quorum.

Opening Words

Approval of Today's Agenda. Pat Schneider moved, Alice Shuman-Johnson seconded. Approved unanimously.

Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

- December, 2014: Vote to ordain Rev. Karen. Bev Buhr moved. Peggy Haack seconded. Approved unanimously
- May, 2015: Congregational Meeting. Kim Reain moved. Charlie McNulty seconded. Approved unanimously

Volunteer Recognition

Members of committees, task forces, teams, events; coordinators, teachers, assistants, attendees, volunteers, and contributors of all sorts were invited to stand up and be recognized. They received homemade recycled fire starters made by Quinn Reain, Lucy Soth, Ray Mitchell-Stillwagner, Sena Pollock, Virginia Harrison, and Kim Reain.

Art Hackett Award for Going Above and Beyond. This years recipients were Cindy Rudd and Carin Bringelson. Their numerous contributions took a long time to recite, and the list was not even complete. They are greatly appreciated by us all. Their names will be added to the plaque posted outside of the kitchen.

Election of Board of Trustees and Nominating Committee

- Continuing members of the board will be Charlie McNulty (President), Jeanne Lydon (treasurer), and at-large members Mary Wagner, Elaine Pridgen, and Doug Erickson

- The new board nominees are Colleen O’Hara (President Elect), Jan Gordon (Secretary), and At-large trustees Jocie Luglio and Larry Orr
- Derek Peterson will continue as Assistant Treasurer
- The Nominating committee will be Andy Soth, Martin Knapp-Cordes, and Amanda Werhane

Joan Kemble moved to approve the slate for Board nominees. Alice Shuman-Johnson Seconded. Approved unanimously.

Vote on changes to JRUUC Bylaws and Endowment Fund Resolution

A. Barb Whitney introduced the Bylaws discussion with a review of the substantive changes, which bring the bylaws up-to-date with our current practices:

- The Minister supervises the board (Article IX)
- Only committees required by the bylaws are included here. Others can be formed as the Congregation chooses.
- Add gender identity expression (Article XIV)
- Add establishment of an Endowment Fund (Article XV).

Alice Shuman-Johnson moved to adopt the bylaws. Marla McFadden seconded.

Discussion: Craig McComb warned of insulation of the minister by a “protective/defensive” Ministry Committee. Others brought up that the opposite can happen. Kim Reain clarified that Ministry includes the Congregation, not just the Minister and Committee on Shared Ministry. Sarah Cooke reminded us that the Covenant of Right Relations is meant to keep these things in balance.

There was some confusion about language that was due to a collating error in the handouts: A page from a document describing the bylaws was assumed to be the actual bylaws. Once this was cleared up, the language issue was moot.

The new bylaws were unanimously passed.

B. John Mathis introduced discussion about the Endowment Resolution. He reviewed what a fund is and how it works.

Carin Bringelson moved to adopt the Endowment Resolution. Bev Buhr seconded.

Discussion:

Beth Esser had a question about who oversees how the endowment is invested. The Congregation votes on establishment, and then policy and procedures is overseen by BOT. Does the congregation have input to the endowment in the future? John: Yes congregants can give their input to the endowment committee and BOT about what is in the Policies and Procedures document.

Pat Schneider asked: Will the congregation be involved in major expenditures of an emergency nature? Rev. Karen responded: The board is the fiduciary responsibility for the Congregation, and it's their job to make these decisions.

John gave clarification on how board can spend the endowment: only $\frac{1}{2}$ of the *interest + dividends*, not the new gifts or principle can be spent on an annual basis by the BOT.

Carin Bringelson shared her vision to use that $\frac{1}{2}$ of interest to send youth to GA, or send folks to the U-U MidWest Leadship School.

Elaine Pridgen noted that we have not adopted the Policies and Procedures yet, and her mission as a board member is to be as transparent as possible. She said the BOT will be asking for your feedback on this in the future.

The Endowment Resolution was approved unanimously.

Operating Budget for 2016-2017

Rev. Karen started this off with a presentation on how our pledge income is distributed. This showed how many people make up each quartile of our pledges. Our distribution is bottom-heavy, with a very large number of people pledging in the bottom quartile and just a few in the top. This means that there are a few people giving large amounts of money and many people giving small amounts, which makes us vulnerable if we were to lose one or more of those top quartile donors. Compared to last year, we have more pledges, more pledge increases, and more Fair Share givers, but our average pledge has decreased.

Sarah Cook asked how our household income distribution compares to other congregations. Many of us have the impression that it's lower but we really don't know if that is true. We're not sure that is the kind of information we can or should collect.

Next we discussed the proposed 2016-17 Operating Budget

Carin Bringelson had a question about UUA fair share contributions. If we multiply the nominal Fair Share contribution by the number of members, we are \$3000 below where we would like to be. She would like to encourage the BOT to keep pushing up this number each year to reach the Fair Share level.

Jocie Luglio asked for clarification about the line item for "Soul Matters." Rev. Karen responded that it is a UUA-wide program of resources for worship with themes for each month, including Religious Exploration curricula, sermons, readings, quotes and more. Ministers contribute content. This helps to provide content for services for both the minister and lay leaders.

Marla McFadden asked about the sabbatical fund. The UUA recommends ministers take a sabbatical after between 4-7 years of service. The minister will earn 1 month for each year (i.e., 4 months in 4 years, 7 months in 7 years). We are building up funds for this by including a line item to pay visiting ministers to fill the pulpit.

Joan Kemble asked about one-time expenses. Charlie McNulty responded that we are using a portion of our 2016 surplus: \$500 for a consultant from the district for our Director of Religious Education, \$250 for re-keying, and \$50 to run a phone line into staff room.

Beth Esser applauded the congregation and committee that put this Operating Budget together. She asked if there are other things we want. Charlie McNulty mentioned that we now have a Major maintenance line item in addition to an emergency fund, for things like the stove, furnace, and roof.

Tom Kemble asked how do we deal with people who are no longer members or who disappeared? Virginia is working on this and says to stay tuned!

Bev Buhr moved to approve budget. Leila Pine seconded. Approved unanimously

Extinguish the Chalice. Karen led us with a song.

Raffle Drawing – Cindy Rudd and Pam Younger gave away lots of gift certificates to lucky winner. And the grand prize of \$250 went to....Cindy Rudd!

The meeting adjourned at about 1:30 pm.