

ANNUAL MEETING

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF NASHUA

June 10, 2010

A quorum of 61 members having been met, President of the congregation Laurie Goodman called the meeting to order at 7:00 and read the Purposes from the Articles of Agreement. Reverend Steve Edington lit the chalice and did a reading from "Let it be a Dance" by Rick Masten as Opening Words.

Consent Agenda

Elaine Thomas moved the adoption of the Consent Agenda, seconded by June Haskell. The motion passed unanimously. The Consent Agenda consists of the minutes of the 2009 Annual Meeting, held on June 11, 2008, as submitted by the Clerk, as well as the reports of the following committees and programs, which were placed on file (posted at www.uunashua.org/gov.shtml): Financial Records Review, Investment Review, Membership, Music, Denominational Connections, Nashua Cemetery Association, Property, Public Relations, Religious Education, Social Justice, White Wing, Personnel, and Worship Associates/Worship and Service.

Minister's Report

Steve Edington presented his report, which is filed with these minutes. In noting the high and low points of this past church year, Steve spoke about his long connection to the church: he arrived 22 years ago when his son Gordon was just four years old and in just two weeks he will officiate Gordon's marriage to Crystal Cassidy in our sanctuary.

President's Report

President Laurie Goodman presented her report, which is filed with these minutes, noting in particular how our congregation has become very intentional in our commitment to planning for our own future, "recognizing that change is coming in our Unitarian Universalist faith, but secure in the understanding that it is a change grounded in our mission, vision, values, and principles". Laurie also noted, as she closes out her presidency, that it has been an honor and privilege to serve in the role as president of the congregation.

Religious Education: ROPES Interlude

Julia Fletcher and Ellen McCormick spoke about the ROPES class and curriculum, with Julia particularly stressing how much the class has meant to her.

Clerk's Annual Report of Church Membership

Clerk Hilary Keating presented her annual report of 2009-2010, which is filed with these minutes. She noted that the report lists members who have joined this church year, those who have asked to be removed, those who have died, and those who have been removed pursuant to Article 3.4 of the Bylaws. Kate Messner moved, seconded by Joan Connacher, that the Clerk's minutes be accepted. The motion passed unanimously.

Investment Review Committee

Bob Sampson presented his report, which is part of the Consent Agenda and filed with these minutes. He noted that the church investments increased 2.8% this year, a better year than last year, and the committee is considering changing from Bank of America due to changes in their investment strategy.

Congregational Fellowship Moment

Jenn Morton and Michelle Morrison spoke about the special year they have had and the special place the UU Church of Nashua has in their lives.

Musical Interlude

The choir presented a favorite song.

Treasurer's Report 2009-2010 and Presentation of Proposed FY 2010/2011 Budget

Mike Wilt presented his Treasurer's Report, which is filed with these minutes. He stated that it had been a very good year, with the church taking care of itself and behaving in a fiscally responsible manner. He explained the cash reserve and explained the difference between it and the endowment.

Mike then presented the proposed budget. He explained that less than 30% of the proposed new budget is funded from the endowment, so our operations are primarily funded by pledges. For the first time, pledge income exceeds staff salaries. Mike noted that the proposed budget includes 3% COL adjustments on all salaries as recommended by the personnel committee, as well as an increase to bring our minister compensation closer to the fair compensation level established by the UUA.

Bob Sampson moved, seconded by Harry Purkhiser, to place the Treasurer's Report on file. Russ Leonard moved, seconded by Jim Thorpe, to approve the proposed budget. Both motions passed unanimously.

Congregational Fellowship Interlude

Bob Coulter spoke about this past Thanksgiving, which he spent at the church with his church "family".

Policy Governance Slide Show

Gary Lerude presented a slide show he has developed explaining Policy Governance to the congregation.

Report of Bylaws Revision Committee

New Bylaws

Harry Purkhiser, representing the Bylaws Revision Committee, explained the reason for revising our bylaws at this point – to better fit the policy governance model – and how they went about the project. He then moved, seconded by Burns Fisher, to approve the following motion, which was approved unanimously by the congregation.

Whereas, the Unitarian-Universalist Church of Nashua, NH has for several years been following what is commonly called a "Policy Governance" model of church government, and

Whereas, the present bylaws do not reflect this model in that some duties and responsibilities are not assigned as required under Policy Governance, and

Whereas, some Articles of the present bylaws are outdated, or do not reflect our current practice, be it therefore resolved that:

The present bylaws of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashua be entirely replaced by the bylaws contained in the draft dated May 20, 2010 and presented at the Annual Meeting of 2010.

The new Bylaws are attached to these minutes.

Article 11

Harry Purkhiser presented the amendment to Article 11, giving the history of the preservation of the endowment and the reasons for the creation of the amendment. He then put forth the motion, seconded by Bob Keating, which is attached to these minutes and is as follows:

Whereas, in the past, money has sometimes been taken from the Endowment to a greater extent than is compatible with preservation of the Endowment, and

Whereas, it is prudent that taking from the Endowment should be given most careful consideration, and

Whereas it is desirable to separate the decision regarding the prudent amount to withdraw from the endowment from the body that determines our annual budgetary priorities, thus putting it under the control of the Invested Funds Management Committee, and

Whereas, the Invested Funds Management Committee should be elected by the Church at Annual Meetings, be it resolved that:

The bylaws of the Unitarian-Universalist Church of Nashua, NH be amended in accordance with "Proposed Article 11 – Invested Funds Management", presented at the 2010 annual meeting.

A long discussion followed this presentation. The strongest opposition voiced, by Harry Purkhiser, Bob Sampson, and others, expressed the concern that all power to take money from the endowment would be out of the hands of the Board of Trustees and into the hands of another committee. The strongest voices in favor of the motion, voiced by Mike Wilt and Bob Keating, among others, favored the idea of having a separate elected committee, independent from the Board of Trustees, whose purpose is to keep the

endowment into perpetuity, and believed that Article 11 went along with the policy governance model.

The final vote was 32 in favor of Article 11 and 26 opposed. Since two-thirds was needed to pass, the motion failed.

Nominating Committee

Chip McGee presented the committee's slate for Executive Board, Nominating Committee, Financial Records Review Committee, and Nashua Cemetery Association. The slate is filed with these minutes. There were no nominations from the floor. Harry Purkhiser, seconded by Karen Leonard after misspellings were corrected, moved that the slate be accepted. The motion passed unanimously.

Worship and Spiritual Development Interlude

Kathy Fletcher gave a brief presentation on blessings and on how we are willing to make connections. She followed this by leading an exercise during which church members made eye contact with as many fellow members as possible.

Other Business

There was no other business from the congregation. Outgoing President Laurie Goodman praised Geri Davidson for all her work with the choir and honored Sherri Woolsey for all the work she does "above and beyond" her job description.

Motion to Adjourn

Bill Dowey moved, seconded by Elaine Thomas, to adjourn the meeting at 9:30. The motion passed unanimously. Immediately following the adjournment, the congregation viewed the slide show "I Love the Whole World" put together by Kathy and Frank Grossman.

Respectfully submitted,

Hilary Keating, Clerk