

## ANNUAL MEETING

### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF NASHUA

June 9, 2011

A quorum of 69 members having been met by 90 members present, President of the congregation Ellen Fisher called the meeting to order at 7:10 and read the Purposes from the Articles of Agreement. Reverend Steve Edington lit the chalice and did a reading entitled "Anyone's Ministry" as Opening Words. Prior to the meeting having been called, a potluck supper and a musical selection by the choir, "Give a Little Love" were enjoyed by congregation members.

#### **Consent Agenda**

Russ Leonard, seconded by Bob Sampson, moved the adoption of the Consent Agenda. The motion passed unanimously. The Consent Agenda consists of the minutes of the 2010 Annual Meeting, held on June 10, 2010, 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](http://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 reviewed the church year and is filed with these minutes. As he is about to start his final year as minister, Steve noted that he has begun to step back from some of his wider involvements while still being supportive of those organization with which we as a congregation have a relationship. Steve sees our next year as one that will be the beginning of a time of discernment, a time he feels will be both productive and exciting for the congregation and for him as well.

#### **President's Report**

President Ellen Fisher presented her report, which is filed with these minutes, to the congregation. She began by explaining how Policy Governance works and then reviewed the policy issues worked on by the Board of Trustees this church year. One of the first decisions of the BOT this year was to ask the Investment Review Committee to recommend a prudent amount to take from the endowment to include in the coming year's budget. Ellen noted that long before the budgeting process began this year the BOT decided as a matter of policy that it would abide by that recommendation. Ellen then noted the priorities adopted by the BOT in October and discussed each. She announced that one of the priorities – to improve our current audio-visual system – has received a boost, as a significant donation in honor of Nathaniel Brooks has been offered to the church for that purpose if it can be accomplished within four months. Next, Ellen talked about the Stewardship Campaign and the ministerial transition that will begin to take place next year. Finally, Ellen announced that collection baskets will be at the rear of the church to provide financial assistance to the Brunswick Maine UU church, which suffered a fire this week.

### **Religious Education and Youth Interlude**

Jamie Hinkle spoke about the Religious Education Committee and its work. The report is filed with the minutes. He talked about the theme of this school year, which was "Children Helping Children". Zoe Goodell followed and spoke about the youth group that she attends weekly, describing what the youth do at these meetings and expressing how much she and other youth appreciate the support that our church has given them this year, particularly since they feel the youth cons are no longer supported by the district. Zoe suggested that the church consider offering even more programming for youth.

### **Clerk's Annual Report of Church Membership**

Clerk Hilary Keating presented her annual report of 2010-2011, 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. Bob Sampson moved, seconded by Karen Leonard, 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 Jack Law's name had been inadvertently omitted from his report as a member of the committee. Bob stated that this was a much better year for church investments and that our endowment has risen from just over \$3.2 million to over \$3.6 million. The biggest change in our investment strategy was to hold only mutual funds, not individual stocks. Mike Ballentine asked if the committee had considered socially responsible investing, and Bob responded that the committee had decided to go along with whatever the Bank of America's recommendations are.

### **Stewardship Interlude**

Dave Hudson spoke about the meaning and benefits of stewardship of the church, stressing how much and how well we as a congregation have done by doing it together.

### **Musical Interlude**

The choir presented a favorite song, "Julian of Norwich".

### **Treasurer's Report 2010-2011**

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 provided a brief history of how our church has come to this place where we now withdraw a prudent amount of money from the endowment so as to preserve it into perpetuity. Mike noted that this year we were \$40K ahead because of higher membership, more pledgers, bigger pledges, and a successful auction and said that the BOT had voted to carry forward \$12K to the Property Committee and \$25K to the endowment. Dave Hudson, seconded by Jim Thorp, moved to accept the Treasurer's Report and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Presentation of Proposed FY 2011/2012 Budget**

Mike then presented the proposed budget. He noted that there was a significant increase to the minister's salary to bring our minister compensation closer to the fair compensation level established by the UUA. There was a brief question and answer period.

Bill Kennedy moved, seconded by Jon Laselle, to place the Treasurer's Report on file, and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Outreach Collection Interlude**

Mary Ferguson spoke about the outreach collections and the organizations receiving those collections. She reported that a total of about \$29K has been collected this year and over \$150K has been collected over the years since the outreach collections began. Please see the Social Justice Annual Report, which is filed with these minutes, for a detailed description of organizations and the amounts they received.

### **Nominating Committee**

Chip McGee presented the committee's slate for the Board of Trustees, Nominating Committee, Financial Records Review Committee, and Nashua Cemetery Association. The slate is filed with these minutes. There were no nominations from the floor. Jim Thorp, seconded by John Burkitt, moved that the slate be accepted. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Congregation Fellowship Interlude**

Roy Goodman spoke about traveling by bus, on a trip organized by Jenn Morton, to Washington DC with 45 church members and friends to attend the Rally to Restore Sanity.

### **Other Business**

Ellen Fisher encouraged congregation members to read all the committee reports distributed to learn about what is going on in the church.

Steve Edington reminded everyone to donate to the Brunswick, ME UU Church as they left the meeting.

### **Motion to Adjourn**

Harry Purkhiser, seconded by Bob Sampson, moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Hilary Keating, Clerk