

## ANNUAL MEETING

### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF NASHUA

June 7, 2012

81 members were present fulfilling a quorum of 69 members. President of the congregation Ellen Fisher called the meeting to order at 7:10 and read the Purposes from the Articles of Agreement. Bob Sampson was appointed Parliamentarian. Reverend Steve Edington lit the chalice. Prior to the meeting a musical selection was enjoyed by congregation members.

#### **Consent Agenda**

Russ Leonard, seconded by Bill Kennedy, moved the adoption of the Consent Agenda. The motion was passed unanimously. The Consent Agenda consists of the minutes of the 2011 Annual Meeting, held on June 9, 2011, as submitted by the Clerk, as well as the reports of the following committees and programs: 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. He thanked the congregation for 24 good years of service. He also added an addenda to his report concerning the conduct of departing ministers. Departing ministers should limit their influence and presence within the congregation and their interactions with members and staff. After 7/31/12 Steve is no longer available for ministerial services, however he will continue to reside in Nashua. If you see him don't avoid him but leave congregational life out of the conversation.

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

President Ellen Fisher presented her report to the congregation. She started by saying using the Policy Governance to govern the church has freed up the board to concentrate on long term policies and initiatives to insure we are living our mission and how we can do it better. The board set three church priorities, which will be explained by board members during the meeting. She then spoke about the new sound system now in place thanks to a generous gift in honor of Nathaniel Brooks and donations from church members. Ellen then spoke about our three- year transition process to select a new minister. This first year was highlighted by a sermon from Rev. Keith Kron, Director of the UUA Transition Office, the All-Church Dinner and Small Group Discussion and the Good-Bye Party for Steve Edington. After considerable research, the board hired Rev. Olivia Holmes to be our interim minister starting August 1<sup>st</sup>. Lastly Ellen spoke about Financial Matters. This year's pledge drive fell short of its goal but because of careful management over the past few years we have accumulated a Cash Reserve therefore we can stick to our policy of using the amount from the endowment recommended by the Investment Review Committee.

### **Living Our Mission: All-Church Justice Project**

Kathleen Griffis, a member of the board, spoke about this priority set by the board. The entire church will be involved in this mission to end hunger and homelessness in the Nashua area.

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

Clerk Rosalie Kuehn presented her annual report of 2011-2012. She noted that 18 people have joined the church, 8 were removed by request, 7 church members died and 3 were removed pursuant to Article 3.4 of the Bylaws. It was noted that a new member Diane Lyons' name was incorrect on the report. Kate Messner moved, seconded by June Haskell, that the Clerk's minutes be accepted. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Investment Review Committee Report**

Bob Sampson presented his report. Bob stated that this was not a good year for investments and that our endowment decreased about 9%, from approximately 3.9 to 3.3 million dollars. As reported last year, our investments continue to be in mutual funds and exchange trade funds. An 8% Total Return (income plus principal) would meet our objective of a Balanced Return. This would allow us to withdraw 4% to 5% and still keep a consistent amount in the endowment. This year, because of strong support for the pledge drive, we only withdrew about 3.5%.

### **Living Our Mission**

Dona LaRue, a board member spoke on the importance of retaining our youth and attracting young adults to the church.

### **Musical Interlude**

The choir sang a song enjoyed by all.

### **Treasure's Report 2011-2012 and Presentation of Proposed FY 2012-2013 Budget**

Mike Wilt gave the treasures report and presented the proposed budget for 2012-2013. Mike said that this budget reflects one major change, switching from our retiring minister to an interim minister. The interim minister compensation package costs \$7674 more than our previous budget. Pledges were down 12% from the previous budget. We therefore will need to withdraw \$29,312 from our cash reserve, which is approximately \$119,000. There may have to be changes in staff to bring income and expenses into alignment. Russ Leonard, seconded by Joan Connacher moved to accept the budget. The motion passes unanimously.

### **Living Our Mission**

John Burkitt spoke about the third church priority, the improved communication project.

### **Nominating Committee Report**

First, Chip McGee thanked the retiring Assistant Treasurer, Cemetery Association, Nominating Committee and Board of Trustees members. He then presented the committee's slate for the Board of Trustees, Nominating Committee, Financial Records

Review Committee, and Nashua Cemetery Association. There were no nominations from the floor. Bob Sampson, seconded by David Hudson, moved that the slate be closed and accepted. The motion passed unanimously.

**Other Business and Announcements**

Jenn Morton announced that beginning June 17<sup>th</sup> and continuing the third Sunday of every month, the church will serve an evening community meal. She said if you wish to help please respond to the e-mail she will be sending out.

**Final Hymn**

The congregation sang “Now Let Us Sing”.

**Motion to Adjourn**

Bob Sampson, seconded by Kim Steele, moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalie Kuehn, Clerk