

Minutes
First Unitarian Church of Des Moines
Annual Congregational Meeting June 2, 2019

The 2019 Annual Congressional Meeting of First Unitarian Church of Des Moines opened at 11:38 A.M.

472/474? Members in the congregation

71 members are required to be in attendance at the annual meeting to make quorum.

106 members were present on Sunday 6/2/2019 for the annual meeting.

Welcome and Chalice Lighting- Bill Brauch, President of the Board of Trustees

Call to Order- Barb Royal, moderator, Al Powers appointed Parliamentarian

Review of the Minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting- Bill Brauch

Moved for approval by Bill Brauch

Seconded by Karen Lauer

Approved by voice vote

Year in Review- Rev Jennifer Brooks, Interim Senior Minister

(remarks were provided by Rev. Brooks)

Thanks to Transition Team

Historical Team for 150th Anniversary timeline project

Mission and Vision Drafting Team

Clarifying roles of Board and Staff

Search Committee

Beyond Categorial Thinking

Stewardship to help reach vision and grow

This church community is AWESOME!

Annual Elections- Bill Brauch, BOT President, and Gene McCracken, BOT member

Election of Board of Trustees:

Patty Notch, Scott Emison Clair, and Sara Jensen

Bill Brauch moved

No additional nominations

Voice vote approved unanimously

Approval of Endowment Committee:

Gina Campbell and Robert Vance

Gene McCracken moved

No additional nominations

Voice Vote approved unanimously

Search Committee Recognition- Bill Brauch

Tim Wilson, Patty Notch, Chelsea Hayes, Darin Jensen, Margaret Schultz, Greg Nichols, Hilary Hippen-Leek

Mission and Vision Drafting Team Report- Jean Rommes and Heidi Levine

Drafting Team: Heidi Levine, Jean Rommes, Birch Spick, Adrian Stamper, Katy Philby

Recommendation to the Board:

Mission: To inspire spiritual and ethical growth, to prepare for service, to heal the world

Vision: To live our values as a deeply engaged community where members are free to pursue their spiritual paths and understanding of truth and are empowered to bear witness and advocate for justice

General Assembly Delegates- Bill Brauch

Delegates include: Pamela Backstrom, Birch Spick, and Ellen Taylor

Faith in Action Partners- Katie Allen, Social Justice Counselor and Chair of Faith in Action Committee

The Faith in Action partners for 2019-2020 are as follows:

Sept-Oct: Iowa Interfaith Light and Power

Nov-Dec: Lutheran Services of Iowa

Jan-Feb: Home Forward

March-Apr: Iowa Justice for Our Neighbors

May-Jun: Al Exito

Jul-Aug: One Iowa

Unsung UU award- Sue Huber, BOT Vice President

Presented to Sally Boeckholt

2019-2020 Operational Budget- Bill Brauch

- More input from congregation this year through Roundtables and forums
- pledges are down \$57,000; lots of cancellations hit stewardship campaign due to Polar Vortex and other weather issues this year
- adjustments in proposed budget come from: cutting denominational support, transferring \$50,000 from savings
- \$20,000 cuts

Bill Brauch moved to approve, Jean Rommes seconded

Comments and discussion from congregation:

Walter Pearson: what are our obligations to UUA, how are our obligations affected, Is Rev. Shaw aware of our position?

Charlie: \$45,000 original obligation, budget gives \$7,000 for FY19-20

Amy Shaw is aware

Barb Royal commented and Bill Brauch confirmed: Board will re-examine budget if pledges are increased: 50% of new pledges will go towards UUA obligation

Harvey Harrison: concern about structural budget; started in 2014 with hiring of associate minister; loss of membership (from high of 515 members), wants to kick back to Board to come up with long-term plan

Heidi Lackmann: serves on Stewardship committee; no plan but many possibilities as we shape our future

Scott Clair: thanks for increased opportunities for congregational input; Planning begins now to help build up savings since we know it won't be there next year; we can build a plan together

Bruce Martin: what are the implications of cutting denominational support? relationship with UUA?

Charlie talked to our UUA representative: 1st UU has been greatly valued as a generously contributing congregation for over 10 years which means we have been able to help to carry other struggling congregations... now it is our turn to be carried by others. UUA is understanding and acknowledges we are not cutting because of dissatisfaction with them, but are cutting from necessity; Rev Shaw will help guide us into the future for the longterm: this is part of her job; we had to cut some denominational support in order to get Rev Shaw HERE then we can start to rebuild budget

Adrian Stamper: attended budget meeting; positive thing was that many members were present and contributing comments/concerns; passion of people in congregation; this is a business budget, not a personal budget; our effort to raise funds contributes to budget

Sheryl Tenekat: \$6,600 not needed next year for ministerial transition funds, so is that extra money?

Charlie: \$22,500 allocated for ministerial transition for Rev. Amy through bequest funds or money already set aside for this purpose (including the \$6,600); this money does not come from pledges

Charlotte Shivers: very disappointed our denominational contribution has gone down to \$7000

Gene McCracken: totals on budget missing from packet

Charlie: extra handout with budget summary available with correct info

Voice Vote approved motion to approve budget as presented

Recognition of Retiring BOT members- Sue Huber, BOT Vice President, presented Steve Coverdale and Nina Richtman

Special Announcement - Bill Brauch

Celebrating Rev. Jennifer Brooks

Thank you so much for your patience, guidance, and leadership.

Extinguishing Chalice and Closing Words- Bill Brauch

Motion to adjourn the annual meeting was made by Bruce Martin and seconded by Scott Clair.
Approved by unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 12:44 P.M.

(Minutes submitted by Katy Philby)