

Meeting Minutes: Annual Congregational Meeting Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church

Date: May 20, 2012

Information about this meeting and the matters to be addressed had been made available well in advance in the newsletter, on the listserv, and in various meetings and announcements.

Approved members were signed in on the day of the meeting and given paper ballots. Proxies and the names of those they intended to represent were signed in by the secretary and given the appropriate number of ballots and proxy cards. Handouts pertaining to the agenda were made available at this time.

Board President Linda Randolph called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and take action on election of officers, revisions to the Bylaws, the proposed fiscal year budget, and other items as noted. The Secretary confirmed that a quorum of fifty or more approved members was present. Statements submitted by proxies in advance of the meeting have been kept on file.

1. Annual Election of Officers

A number of the names of nominees new to officer posts were noted. The President requested that voting proceed via the paper ballots, to be collected and counted by the end of the meeting. Sample ballots are on file with these minutes.

2. Revisions to the Bylaws

The proposed changes had been disseminated in advance of the meeting as noted.

- There was a question concerning the wording of Article 5. It was suggested that, for clarity, “so” be changed to “as,” the wording thus becoming “as designated by the Board.” A motion to this effect was made, seconded and carried.
- There was a question concerning a passage in the summary, which seemed to indicate that a member must join a committee. A reading of the full text clarified the intent and no action was taken.
- Voting was to take place via the paper ballots, to be collected and counted by the end of the meeting.

3. 2012-2013 Budget

The President specifically explained or referenced a number of items among the proposed changes to the budget.

- Kim Mason made a presentation regarding the line item pertaining to the one year funding of an R.E. Intern, noting that specific reasons for this proposed initiative include the resulting ability for Kim to begin a schedule of early a.m. R.E. classes; for improved efforts in the area of young adult R.E.; for an outreach program at UT; for Kim to assess interests, develop, schedule, and promote adult RE programming to complete the goal of a lifespan program for the church; and the need to proceed quickly due to time frame issues.

- In response to a question as to the funding source, she noted it is funded in the budget but that grant opportunities will be investigated.
- In response to a question about the following year, she noted that next year's budget will not include this position.
- In response to a question concerning this position as opposed to guidelines followed in regard to our salaried staff, she noted that it is a stipended position which will follow UUA guidelines for internships.
- In response to a question as to whether the candidate is still in school, she answered that she is not presently a student, that she has very relevant experience since she was in school, and that she sees this internship as an opportunity to provide her experience to work in RE.
- In response to a question as to why the grant was not pursued first, she answered that visa issues require timely action in this case.
- In response to a question as to what happens if a step in this process misfires, she responded that the hire would not be made and the corresponding R.E. efforts thus could not occur.
- A suggestion was made that adult R.E. feature bible study.
- In response to a question as to why, if this opportunity did not work out, another one could not subsequently be pursued, it was noted that we presently have a hodge-podge process without the oversight of a committee, which one person said is needed for a more systematic effort.
- A comment was made that the proposed one-year hire should represent a great test program.
- In response to a question as to what happens after this one year effort, Kim responded that building and planning the proposed new and expanded R.E. activities takes time, the implication being that these efforts could be on a firm foundation by the end of the year and that hours would be added to the assistant to the RE Director to cover running some of what was implemented.
- There was a comment that the proposal appears to offer a lot of "bang for the buck".
- There was a comment that this represents an opportunity, albeit unplanned, which, while requiring a dip into the contingency fund, will give us the benefit of a clearly accomplished staff person in areas, such as young adult R.E., where they will be very beneficial.
- There was a request for information as to how money gets into the contingency fund.
 - In response it was noted that unpledged donations, surplus, and the possibility of more pledges are typical resources for the fund.
 - It was commented that \$80,000 were in the fund at the beginning of this fiscal year, but that non-routine expenses such as the roof work, funding involved in Duncan Teague's internship, and other items whittled down this amount.
 - It was commented that the outcome of this year's stewardship campaign was disappointing, and that while ours is a relatively wealthy church

membership, we don't always show it. Also, that the honoring of remaining pledges is still being sought.

- There was a request for information as to the cutbacks on lines 34 and 35 of the proposed budget. In response it was noted that these are specific cutbacks we will have to work with.
- A motion to approve the R.E. intern initiative was made, seconded and carried.
- A motion to approve the 2012-2013 budget as presented was made, seconded and carried.

4. Report on the Endowment Fund Committee

- Sherman Jones presented a report, as required by the Bylaws, on the committee he chairs.
- He noted that funds anticipated in the short term will bring the Endowment Fund to a total of approximately \$250,000, and stated that the minimal goal of the Fund is \$1,000,000.
- He listed the five sub-funds that comprise the Fund.
- He commented that a primary purpose of the Fund is to assist the church with unforeseen or inconveniently timed expenditures.
- He noted that the proposed change from six to seven members on the committee is for the purpose of reducing the chance of tie votes.
- Better support of the gift card program was suggested, which could contribute to the Endowment Fund for the purpose of having on hand available funding for emergencies and unforeseen expenses.

5. Resolution to Sponsor Caitlin Cotter as Ministerial Candidate

- Several very positive presentations were made in support of Caitlin Cotter.
- A motion that the church will offer her support was made, seconded and unanimously carried.

6. Congregational Covenant

The proposed covenant, which had been previously disseminated to the congregation and was available at the meeting, has been approved by the Board. Congregational approval is required. A motion to approve the covenant was made, seconded and carried.

7. Ballot Results

- The mike was passed from Linda to Chloe Airoidi-Watters, soon to become President. Linda was presented with a gift in honor of her admirable work as President.
- The counting of the ballots revealed clear majorities in favor of all nominees in the slate of officers; of all proposed changes to the Bylaws; and of the change from six to seven members on the Endowment Committee. The actual tabulations are on file with these minutes, with thanks to vote counters and fellow checkers-in Laura Twilley and Cindy Moffett.

8. Adjournment

At 1:00 p.m., a motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth M. Moffett
Board Secretary-Clerk
May 20, 2012