

ANNUAL MEETING

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF NASHUA

June 11, 2009

A quorum of 61 members having been met and exceeded by 24 (for a total of 85 eligible-to-vote members present), President of the congregation Laurie Goodman called the meeting to order at 7:15 and read the Purposes from the Articles of Agreement. Reverend Steve Edington lit the chalice and did a reading as Opening Words. The choir presented a musical piece.

Consent Agenda

Bob Sampson moved the adoption of the Consent Agenda, seconded by Russ Leonard. The motion passed unanimously. The Consent Agenda consists of the minutes of the 2008 Annual Meeting, held on June 12, 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. Among other things, he spoke about Rev. Bill Sinkford's visit in January, the passage of the same-sex marriage bill in the state legislature, the generosity of church members during this year's pledge drive, the excellence of church staff, and the fine leadership of our church president Laurie Goodman.

President's Report

President Laurie Goodman presented her report, which is filed with these minutes, but provided a personal message to the congregation about why being president of the congregation has been so important to her.

Worship and Spiritual Development Interlude

Anya Zakiewicz spoke about what the church offers her personally, specifically mentioning the covenant groups, Buddhist meditation group, Food for Thought Thursdays, and summer services.

Clerk's Annual Report of Church Membership

Clerk Hilary Keating presented her annual report of 2008-2009, 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. Harry Purkhiser moved, seconded by Steve Hedges, that the Clerk's minutes be accepted. The motion passed.

Religious Education Interlude

Jim Woolsey read a letter from Pat Field, who talked about her role in the musical HONK, presented this spring, and the purpose of the play in the church.

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 lost 23% this year, while the Dow Jones lost 30%. The IRC's objectives, as stated to the Bank of America, are to 1) preserve and increase principal, 2) provide income to supplement the contributions of Church Members, and 3) balance our fiduciary responsibility with our social responsibilities. The church makes no investments in alcohol, tobacco, and gambling and watches for companies with environmental and management problems.

Community Loan Fund

Ellen Barr spoke about the church's \$25,000 investment in the New Hampshire Community Loan Fund, which earns 4% interest. She read a letter from the UUA stating that it would contribute \$10,000 as a matching grant to the NHCLF. The UUA has a policy that 1% of its invested funds be in the community, and Ellen stated that she would like to see our church develop a policy around community investing.

Proposed Change to the Bylaws

Assistant Treasurer Phil Brown summarized the key points of the proposed bylaws change adding a 2nd Assistant Treasurer. There were questions from the congregation and a brief discussion followed. Jim Woolsey moved, seconded by Kate Messner, to change the bylaws as recommended by the Executive Board and as presented by Phil. The motion passed.

Musical Interlude

The choir presented "We are One", which the congregation approved wholeheartedly.

Pledge Drive

Vice-President and Pledge Drive Head Ellen Fisher spoke about the success of this year's pledge drive. She noted that we had an impressive result, especially in such a difficult time, because we all stuck together and that now we enough money for next church year to live up to our mission and values.

Nominating Committee

Tina Marshman presented the committee's slate for Executive Board, Nominating Committee, and Financial Records Review Committee, and Nashua Cemetery Association. The slate is filed with these minutes. There was some discussion as to how the new bylaws affect the slate. Hilary Keating's name was added to the list of those continuing on the EB and needing no vote. Bob Sampson, seconded by Roy Goodman, moved that the Clerk cast one ballot for those nominated. The motion passed. Phil Brown then nominated Jim Bonvouloir to serve as 2nd Assistant Treasurer, seconded by Harry Purkhiser. Jim was voted in.

Treasurer's Report FY2008-2009 and Presentation of the Proposed FY2009-2010 Budget

Treasurer Mike Wilt first thanked the congregation for its generosity during the pledge drive and for taking such good care of the church. He then presented his Treasurer's Report and the proposed budget for 2009-10, both of which are filed with these minutes. He explained that much of the surplus is money that will be spent very soon. There were questions about how the endowment is calculated and about the pledges, COLA increases for staff, and the custodian/sexton's salary. Muriel Credle suggested that a bonus be paid to the sexton for her work, especially since her position is sexton rather than custodian. There was no motion made, but John Laselle of the Personnel Committee said that his committee could consider it in the fall. Harry Purkhiser moved, seconded by Bob Sampson, that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. The motion passed unanimously. Bob Sampson, seconded by Harry Purkhiser, moved that the Proposed FY 2009-2010 Budget be accepted. The motion passed unanimously.

Mike also told the congregation about a fundraiser that would raise money for the church from the replacement of the roof, scheduled to begin this summer. For a suggested minimum of \$100, a message will be written on the underside of a new slate tile installed on the roof (hopefully to be read perhaps in the year 2200 when the roof needs to be replaced again). For \$10, a church member can purchase a piece of one of the old slates. It was suggested that any old slate from the roof found to have a message on it from the 1830's be auctioned off at the next auction.

Community Involvement Interlude

Mary Ferguson made note of the groups that use the church, which include Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Granite State Organizing Project, Girl Scouts of America, the Community Music School, and the Buddhist meditation group. She also reported that \$27,000 was collected in outreach collections each Sunday, benefitting many different groups and agencies, including Star Island, YMCA, Southern NH Services (heating assistance), Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter, Living Wage Campaign, UUA, Pastoral Care, Donna Purkhiser Scholarship Fund, Interfaith Hospitality Network, Habitat for Humanity, and Burundi refugees

Motion to Adjourn

Jim Woolsey, seconded by Karen Leonard, moved the meeting be adjourned at 8:45. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Hilary Keating, Clerk