

## Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Unitarian Society of Hartford

May 23, 2010

**Call to Order:** The annual meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm.

**Welcome and Opening Words:** Carolyn Cartland, President welcomed the group and Reverend Jamestone provided opening words.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made to approve the minutes from last year's meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

### Reports on the state of the Unitarian Society

**President's report:** Carolyn made reference to the busy and challenging year that was just completed. Highlights included a structural re-organization of the Board, three Economic Congregational Conversations that carried forward the goal of transparency in financial matters, sound management of the budget which led to being able to restore all prior budget cuts (including \$2,000 to the Minister's salary, \$1,000 to the endowment and full payment of our Clara Barton dues) as well as the successful additional campaign drive that raised \$14,000 and allowed for the staff to remain fully employed and the building to remain open. She recommended reading the written report that is contained in the Annual Report for further details.

**Minister's Report:** The minister had nothing to add to the written report contained in the Annual Report.

**Secretary's Report:** The President-elect gave the secretary's report in her absence. The reported membership to the UUA was 229. The names of new members who have joined since January 1, 2009 were read. We also remembered those members who have died since our last meeting: Doug Christie, Charles Huntington, Kevin Porter and Ruth Raye.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer noted the ongoing effort to practice transparency in all aspects of financial reporting and management. She reported that the Economic Conversations were a part of this effort and have helped to inform the discussions regarding the upcoming budget. Due to excellent expense management, there will be some carryover into next year's budget. Finalization of the upcoming budget by the Finance Sub-Council is expected to be done by June 8<sup>th</sup> and sent to the Board for approval on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Endowment Committee Report:** Al Herzog reported that the current value of the Endowment as of 2 days ago was approximately \$853,000. He noted that with the current practice of taking

\$53,000 yearly from the endowment for operations as well in additional spending from the endowment for capital expenses, we may come up against the current by-laws in regard to rules regarding endowment spending.

**Audit Committee Report:** The President noted that Jim Venneman, Carol Sexton and Carolyn Maloney-Hastillo did an audit of the books and no material changes were suggested.

The President thanked outgoing Board members Martha Page and Bill LaPorte-Bryan for all their work.

**Proposed Changes to the By-Laws:** The President read the proposed changes to the by-laws as follows.

**Article VII Board of Directors Section 2-Elimination of Board Member-at-large position.** The Board of Directors recommends the elimination of the Board member-at-large position. The three at-large positions, each aligned with a specific Council as created in the revised constitution in 2004, have become redundant with the Council Chair positions. The at-large position is removed from the activities, needs, and priorities of the Council and is not the optimal representative of the Council on the Board. Continuation of this role is not the best use of our leaders' time and energy.

**Article X Councils: Election of the four Council Chairs to the Board of Directors.** The Board believes it is a more effective and efficient use of our leaders' time and energy for the four Council Chairs of Administration, Community Within, Social Justice, and Spiritual Life to represent their Councils on the Board. This change will also move the Administration Council from the Treasurer's area of responsibility and allow it to function as independently as the other Councils do.

**Article VII Elections and Terms Section 3: Change the term of the Council Chairs to two years instead of three years as is currently specified in the constitution.** This change will conform to the term limits of the other Board members.

**Article X Councils Section 5 3) Clarify that the Stewardship sub-council resides in the Council on Administration.**

A motion was made to accept the changes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Questions included if the new Board members' terms would be simultaneous. The answer was that the terms are staggered. Another member asked when the changes would take effect and the answer was July 1.

### **Presentation of the New Slate of Board Members:**

The President proposed the following slate as brought forward by the Nominating Committee;

Susan Kinney President	Term 7/1/2010-6/30/2011
Cedric Woods President-Elect	Term 7/1/2010-6/30/2011* *President 7/1/11
Liz Garmise Treasurer	Term 7/1/2010-6/30/2012
Meredith Vasta Secretary	Term Current-6/30/2011
Joe Rubin At-Large/Administration	Term 7/1/2010-6/30/2012
Don Reichler At-Large/Community Within	Term 7/1/2010-6/30/2012
Bill Young At-Large/Social Justice	Term Current – 6/30/2011
Karl Peters At-Large/Spiritual Life	Term Current – 6/30/2011

A motion was made to accept the slate as presented. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**Proposed Green Sanctuary Application:** Bill Young and Bev Prager reviewed the work that has been done over the past 2 years in order for our congregation to apply for “green sanctuary” designation. In order for the application to be sent to the UUA, congregational approval must be documented. A motion was proposed as follows. “It is moved at the Annual Meeting of the Unitarian Society of Hartford on Ma7 23, 2010 that:

This body commends the Green Sanctuary Sub-Council of the Council on Social Justice on its planning and actions over the last two years toward becoming an accredited Green Sanctuary congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations and;

This body endorses the submission of the official application for Green Sanctuary status by the Green Sanctuary Sub-Council.”

One member asked what the financial implications might be in becoming a Green Sanctuary. Bev noted that there is a \$100 fee for the application process but did not know of the long-term financial implications. Another member asked if the proceeds from the sales of the Green Sanctuary table at coffee hour could be used towards expenses for Green Sanctuary projects and Bill Young responded “yes”.

Motion was made and seconded to approve the motion as written above. There was one abstention, no nays and all the remaining votes were ayes.

**Issues and Concerns:** The floor was opened for discussion. Tom Kemble noted he would like the 7 principles put back onto the Order of Service. He also noted a meeting coming up on 5/25/2010 called "Health and Race, Justice for All". Joan Kemble brought up the current topic of discussion within the UUA regarding the UUA General Assembly which is scheduled to be held in Phoenix, AZ in 2012. She asked if people might want to get together to discuss this in further detail.

The incoming and outgoing Presidents thanked the music director and office staff for their hard work this year, as well as for the efforts of the DRE, Gail Syring and the minister.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 pm.