

Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church Annual Meeting of the Congregation

The 107th Annual Meeting of Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church was held at the church in Founders Hall on Sunday, 17 May 2013 with the following Officers in attendance: Mark Tomlinson, President; Betty Luff, Vice President; Mac McMahon, Treasurer; Donald Zeilman, Clerk.

I Call to Order

Mr. Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 12:08 PM, Reverend David McFarland provided opening words and the chalice was lit. Mr. Tomlinson shared words of welcome with the assembly. The Clerk determined that there was a quorum present at the call to order.

II Minutes

The Minutes of the May 20, 2012 Annual Meeting were distributed beforehand for review. There were no changes or correction, the Minutes stand as written.

III Election of Trustees

Chair calls upon Matt Merriman-Preston, Nominating Committee chair, to present the Committee's slate of candidates for Trustee positions. The slate as presented and published includes: Liz Dell, Jane Schwarz and Gail Ward, all for two-year terms.

The Chair takes nominations from the floor. None are offered.

The ballots are cast and collected by the Tellers. Poll is closed. Ballots are counted and Tellers report the tally. Clerk reports that all candidates received majority votes and are elected.

IV Election of the Endowment Committee

Chair called upon the Clerk to read the nominations as proposed by the Board and the Endowment Committee. They are: Kate Tomlinson, three-year term; Karen Zoller, one-year term.

The Chair takes nominations from the floor. None are offered.

The Clerk moves the slate of candidates as presented. No discussion.

Motion Carries

V Delegates to General Assembly

Mr. Tomlinson introduces the process and states that Allegheny is entitled to 2 (two) delegates at General Assembly. Board nominates member-in-good-standing, Sarah-Wade Smith, who has accepted the nomination.

The Chair takes nominations from the floor. None are offered.

Betty Luff moves that Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church designate Sarah-Wade Smith as its delegate to UUA General Assembly 2013.

Motion Carries

VI Summary Reports

1. Minister's Report: Rev. McFarland made a brief presentation. He would like the assembly to realize the importance of its being able to participate in all aspects of church life, and with the sabbatical upcoming, to think deeply on why we are here, are we serving our mission, do we need to change.

He wants the church to not only survive, but to thrive, serving people who are not yet here. Asks who are the next 25 members? Are they already through the door and part of the vision? Further, how are we reaching out, connecting and living into our mission? Can we envision what we might become.

Rev. McFarland thanks the congregation.

2. Board Report: Mr. Tomlinson, President made a brief presentation. He reviewed some positive benchmarks. Spoke about lower member numbers but greater generosity; lower deficit; increased stewardship (both financial and participatory). Noted the Connection Circles project as an effort to connect us and engage new members.

He states that the congregation has lived with the Covenant of Right Relations for one year and notes that there is much yet to discover in that process.

States that the church website has been redesigned and launched.

Would like the congregation to continue to focus on growth through re-initiating strong programming, increasing commitment to social justice, and improving communications (including acquiring a monitor for Founders Hall).

Mr. Tomlinson thanks out-going trustees, Ellen Kerr, Betty Luff and Andy Schwarz.

3. Sabbatical Report: Ms. Kerr provided a brief report and introduced the planning process for sabbatical. She notes that the move to full-time ministry caused the postponement of the sabbatical until the proposed period January to June 2014, with planning beginning six months before.

States that a Sabbatical Team has been established that includes herself, Mark Tomlinson, Devon Wood, Jane Dirks and Rev. McFarland. She notes that the sabbatical is an opportunity for inspiration and growth for both the minister and the congregation.

Work Group Session: Assembly divided into groups to discuss various aspects of sabbatical through a series of questions posed by the Sabbatical Team.

4. Stewardship Report: Mr. Luff provided a brief report and encouraged the assembly to contribute financially and be involved. He notes that 21% of members account for half of the giving. He is positive about the current campaign, with \$74k in pledges so far, and \$85k expected. He thanks the members of the Stewardship Committee for their hard work.

5. Endowment Report: Mr. Luff provided a brief report, reviewing the history of the fund and the progress over the last year since establishment. He distributed an Endowment Fund brochure and answered specific questions.

VII Budget

Jill Brethauer, from the Finance Committee, made a brief presentation on the proposed Budget for FY14 and reviewed the process for arriving at the proposal. That process included establishing priorities which were then presented and discussed with the Assembly. She presented a preliminary budget summary for the current year, noting that end-of-year fund raising was very helpful in reducing the deficit. Also notes that the current \$200k in savings helps the church to continue in its efforts.

A separate budget presentation is planned to discuss the budget in detail and answer specific questions.

VIII Adjournment

Rev. McFarland made closing remarks. Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:50 pm and the chalice was extinguished.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald G. Zeilman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "D".

Donald G. Zeilman, Clerk 2012–2013