2014 May 18

Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church
Annual Meeting of the Congregation

The 108th Annual Meeting of Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church was held at the church in Founders Hall on Sunday, 18 May 2014 with the following Officers in attendance: Mark Tomlinson, President; Liz Dell, Vice President; Mac McMahon, Treasurer; Donald Zeilman, Clerk.

I Call to Order

Mr. Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM, Mr. Tomlinson provided opening words and the chalice was lit. Mr. Tomlinson led the assembly in the recitation of Allegheny’s Covenant of Right Relations. The Clerk determined that there was a quorum present at the call to order.

II Minutes

The Minutes of the May 17, 2013 Annual Meeting were distributed in advance of the meeting for review. There were no changes or corrections, the Minutes stand as written.

III Amendments to the By-Laws

Mr. Tomlinson states that the proposed By-law amendments, recommended by the Board of Trustees to the assembly, were published by the Clerk in advance of the meeting in accordance with the requirements for amendment. Further, that a Report on Proposed By-Laws Revisions was included, setting out the rationale for the proposed amendments. Mr. Tomlinson reviewed the bullet points published in the report.

The Clerk (Donald Zeilman) moves to amend the By-laws as proposed and published in the Annual Meeting packet.

Discussion topics:

- Developing policy for what contribution of record would mean to the 14-to-17-year-old members
- Whether requiring a contribution as a condition of membership is part of our “culture”
- Concern around changing the discretionary spending limit from a dollar amount to a percentage

**Motion Carries** (two-thirds of the members present required: 24 aye, 6 nay)

IV Delegates to General Assembly

Mr. Tomlinson states that Allegheny is entitled to 2 (two) delegates at General Assembly. Board nominates Mr. Tomlinson, who has accepted the nomination.

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

Liz Dell moves that Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church designate Mark Tomlinson as its delegate to UUA General Assembly 2014.

**Motion Carries**
V Covenant Renewal Resolution

Liz Dell states that the proposed resolution was published in the Annual Meeting packet. Ms. Dell explains the process followed for crafting the resolution, and reads the resolution.

Ms. Dell moves that Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church accept the resolution as published.

Motion Carries

VI Election of Trustees

Chair calls upon Gail Ward, Nominating Committee chair, to present the Committee’s slate of candidates for Trustee positions. The slate as presented and published includes: Greg Blackman, John Luff, Jay Poliziani, and Mark Tomlinson, all for two-year terms.

Gail Ward moves the slate of candidates as presented.

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.

Mr. Tomlinson thanks out-going Trustees McMahon, Merriman-Preston and Zeilman.

VII Sabbatical Update

Ellen Kerr, Chairperson of the Sabbatical Team, reports that the congregation has done well during the course of the ministerial sabbatical, being in month five of six. There was good participation by the members, and the church operated well. Rev. McFarland’s preparation and planning, especially with worship, contributed greatly to that success. Ms. Kerr is proud of what the congregation accomplished.

Ms. Kerr further states that the congregation will initiate a process of re-engagement after July 1. There will be a “welcome back” picnic and also a start up weekend with Rev. McFarland.

Gail Ward notes that not only did the congregation survive, but it was vibrant and successful. Much of the credit goes to staff (Landis-Eigsti and Byers) who accepted additional responsibilities during the sabbatical. Credit also to Ellen Kerr, Betty Schwarz, Jill Brethauer and others who showed up and made a difference.

Mr. Tomlinson also offered special thanks to Treasurer, Mac McMahon for his work in preparation for and during the sabbatical.

VIII Annual Budget

Matt Merriman-Preston, Trustee, made a brief presentation on the financial condition of the church, noting that during the sabbatical the church successfully managed responsibilities and kept financial costs to a minimum.

For the next fiscal year, the church is committed to maintaining fair compensation, supporting justice partners, growing the Religious Education Ministry, and promoting worship and music.
No major facilities upgrades are planned.

On the revenue side, growth and stewardship efforts propose to increase donors and provide greater fund raising opportunities. This effort is essential, with an initial budget projection of up to $27,000 for next year.

There will be an opportunity to discuss budget at a session planned for June 10, 2014. The budget will be finalized by the Board of Trustees at their July meeting.

The Chair entertained questions concerning Mr. Merriman-Preston’s presentation.

IX Adjournment

Mr. Tomlinson thanked the Board, the Green Circle and Gail & Chuck Ward for hosting the lunch. Chair adjourned the meeting and the chalice was extinguished.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Donald G. Zeilman, Clerk 2013–2014