

Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church annual meeting May 21,2017

In attendance: Greg Balckman, Laura Conkle, Liz Dell, Shane Freeman, James Kirkland, Badger Kopnitsky, Joseph Kopnitsky, Michelle Ladd, Ronald Ladd, John Luff, David McFarland, Jill MCKeever, Matt Merriman Preston, Tiffany Merriman Preston, Sarah Mocker, Tim Nuttle, James Poliziani, Scott Powers, Lisa Schroth, Andrew Schwarz, Betty Schwarz, Jane Schwarz, Charlie Snowden, Peggy Thompson, Kate Tomlinson, Mark Tomlinson, David Whaley, Donald Zeilman

Business : Quorum reached

Corrections from last meeting –none

Welcome new members

Vote for Board of Trustees (paper ballot)3 open seats – Sonia Reed, Laura Conkel and Lisa Schroth were all elected to a two year term. Sonia's second two year term and Laura and Lisa's first two year term.

A hand count was conducted to fill two open spots on the Endowment Committee. Eric Meisberger filled a two year term and Tim Nuttle a three year term. Vote was carried by a majority.

General Assembly—Sarah Wade and Sonia Reed will represent AUUC at GA in New Orleans. Following a floor discussion the group agreed that all three candidates running for the president of UUA are qualified and that we will allow our delegates to select the one that impresses them the most.

Financial Report—John Luff --If you need a link to check your financial report on our church system contact John Luff. In 2013 the congregation had a loss of \$31,484 and each year since we have consistently lost a smaller amount. In 2017 we anticipate that for the first time in recent memory we will have a financial gain at the end of the year rather than a loss. We can expect that expenses in the future will increase as a result of filling positions, increasing utility costs and building repairs. We can offset those expenses by an improved End of Year Campaign and maintaining or increasing the currently increased pledges and investments.

Stewardship Report- Tiffany Merriman Preston. In 2016 we raised \$64,000 in pledges. In 2017 the Stewardship team will work to encourage new member pledges through a Challenge grant from the BOT. Stewardship will host a June 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration Lunch at Alphabet gardens after church. Stewardship and Membership will work together to try to get new members to become new pledgers as well.

Discoveries from the Mid-year meeting activity—Kate Tomlinson. The things that seemed to be most important to the congregation were a strong worship service, sermons, music, community activities, service/social justice work in the community, and being a part of a small community.

Boarder Links report –Betty Luff was unable to attend today's meeting but suggested that we look at the report in the most recent newsletter.

Worship Conference Report—Laura Conkel. Several members of the congregation attended a worship conference in April. The take away was that a church needs to create a "Threshold Moment" and a

Sacred Space to invigorate the congregation. There should be a flow of continuous movement and Teamwork during the planning period. There is a Worship Design Studio on line that Laura purchased for the congregation to use to help facilitate the changes. Everyone is encouraged to utilize the worship design studio and members can request access via Rev Dave or Laura.

Healthy conflict Workshop held here in May was attended by approximately 20 people.

Share the Plate celebrated reaching a \$25,000 milestone in 2017.

The Cluster will hold a picnic at Riverview Park July 30<sup>th</sup> at appx noon. AUUC is the host congregation – volunteer helpers are needed—see Greg.

Justice League Report—Shane Freeman. Get Woke and Stay Woke continues to meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month. Discussion groups and movie nights continue. The New Neighbor project (green card applications) is on hold while Christina Powers works out of town. New Sanctuary Pittsburgh is the new direction related to immigration that the Justice League will follow. This project is still forming. The Beaver County UU congregation is up to about 20 each week and they are reaching out to us for some level of connection. The BOT will address this in coming months.

Religious Education-Kate Tomlinson. Always in need of additional volunteers. The kids will participate in a service project which will include collection of items and work at the food pantry. The current religious Education focus is “mindfulness”

Cluster Activities-Mark Tomlinson. Several local congregations are experiencing changes in ministers. The cluster is working to see how congregations can support each other during periods of change.

Thank you to our Volunteers who keep things going.

House Committee—Charlie Snowden. There will be a clean-up day at U house Saturday June 17<sup>th</sup> – volunteers needed.

Discussion period. – Matt Merriman Preston suggested we increase the number of hours for an RE person to attract additional applicants.

Dave Whaley motioned to Adjourn Andy Schwarz seconded it.