

First Unitarian Church South Bend
Annual Meeting, May 21, 2006 Approved Minutes

The Annual Meeting of the First Unitarian Church was called to order by president Gary Metzler. The secretary determined from the sign-in sheet that a quorum of over 15% of the members was present. Jim Curlee moved that the minutes of last year's annual meeting and the minutes from the special congregational meeting held last September be approved as printed in the Annual Report. Bob Schuman seconded and the motion carried.

Minister's Report. Rev. Lisa Doege reported on the year's highlights, including the continuation of the Saturday afternoon service through last weekend. Although the service had a loyal following, the actual number attending was too low to justify continuing next year. She mentioned the extra meetings the board held to work on developing and implementing goals for the Strategic Plan adopted last year. She especially thanked Carlton Higginbotham and Mary Beth Dickey for all their work this year.

President's Report. Gary Metzler reported a relatively quiet year. The exception has been the Sunday morning discussion groups which have been a great addition to the adult R.E. program

Treasurer's Report. Eric Morgan reported two major issues from this past year. The first is that we are losing money with continuing deficit budgets. We can't cut expenses enough to make a difference, so we need to do one or more of the following: increase pledges, increase membership, and/or generate money from outside the congregation with fundraisers. We have also been having problems with the IRS due to mistakes made in filing 2001-2002 forms. Our consultant, a former IRS agent, says the issue can be resolved, but the board recommends having professional help to handle our taxes. Barbara Williams suggested we use a payroll service rather than an accountant.

Budget for 2006-2007. Kate Egerton presented the proposed operating budget for 2006-2007, which is a deficit budget. She moved that the proposed budget be accepted. Florence Klecka seconded the motion. In the discussion that followed, Gary pointed out that we had also received pledges of \$7,800 for a capital fund for painting, signage, and audio-visual equipment that had not been included in the budget. Dave Wistreich then moved that discussion be closed. Bob Schuman seconded and the motion carried with three opposed. Dave then moved that the budget be approved. Jim Curlee seconded and the motion carried with two opposed.

Board Nominations for 2006-2007. The nominating committee, Barb Carmichael, Kathy Vetter and Dave Wistreich, presented a slate for the Board of Trustees:

- Vice President: open for nomination from the floor
- Treasurer: Kathy Vetter, finishing Eric Morgan's term
- Secretary: Anne Mannix
- Trustee: Mary Hagen
- Trustee: Rich Wallace
- Trustee: Kathy Curtis, finishing Kate Egerton's term

Nominations from the floor were then requested. Elizabeth Scarborough nominated Gary Metzler for the position of Vice President, which he agreed to accept. Kathy Vetter seconded. Jim Curlee

moved that the nominations be closed and the secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot; Bob Schuman seconded and the motion carried.

2006 Nominating Committee. On behalf of the Board of Trustees Bob Cope nominated the following for the 2007 nominating committee: Dale Gibson, Alice Bentley, and David Wistreich, with Eric Morgan as an alternate. Chuck Leone moved that the board's selections be approved. Kate Egerton seconded and the motion passed.

All-Church Project. There were no nominations for an All-Church Service Project this year. Dale Gibson moved that in lieu of an actual project, members of the congregation will engage in a thorough discussion of what a project can mean, how to carry it out, etc. Barb Carmichael seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Volunteer of the Year Award. This went to Maureen Wijnen, for her frequent contributions of homemade food for coffee hours, the Service Auction and other activities, and for running a very successful bake sale at the R.E. rummage sale.

Other Business. Dale Gibson expressed concern about recent deficit budgets and urged the Board of Trustees to have a balanced budget next year.

There being no further business, Elizabeth Scarborough moved for adjournment, and Kate Egerton seconded..

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Bentley
Secretary