

**First Unitarian Church South Bend**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**May 20, 2007 Approved Minutes**

The annual Meeting of the First Unitarian Church was called to order by our interim president Gary Metzler. The secretary determined from the sign-in sheet that a quorum of over 15% of the members was present. Rev. Lisa gave an invocation. Elizabeth Scarborough made a motion that the minutes of last year's annual meeting be approved as printed in the Annual Report with a correction to the last sentence of the Treasurer's Report to read, "Jim Curlee seconded and the motion carried with two opposed." Betty Asplund seconded and the motion was approved.

*Minister's Report*

Lisa read her report to the congregation and followed with a moment to remember the three members who have passed away this church year: Bev Tudor, Gene Bethe and Gerri Decker.

*President's Report*

Gary Metzler announced that as vice-president of the Board of Trustees he was now presiding person due to the resignation of Bob Cope. Gary requested an update from the interim minister search committee, composed of Tom Platt, Bill Skidmore and Kathy Curtis. Tom Platt reported that the committee received the names of several candidates earlier this week and will be meeting soon to review the applications. Gary reported that the Board of Trustees has selected the Search Committee, charged with the task of finding a permanent minister, who have had their first meeting.

*Amendment to By-laws*

Elizabeth Scarborough, a representative of the Endowment Committee Task Force, presented a brief history of the establishment of the Endowment Fund. Peggy Stevens made a motion to accept the amendment to the By-laws as printed in the Annual Report. The motion was seconded by Tom Platt. Following a discussion, Tom Platt called the question so the motion was called to vote by Gary and was passed unanimously.

*Resolution to Implement the Endowment*

Elizabeth Scarborough made a motion to accept the Resolution to Implement the Endowment Fund which was seconded by Barb Carmichael. In the discussion that followed, Don Wheeler made an amendment that the the requirement for a "2/3 majority vote" (in the last paragraph under section 2 in part B.) be changed to "majority." This was seconded by Jim Curlee and following discussion, called to a vote. The amendment failed by 20 to 10 votes. Cindy Benedict pointed out a typo where the parenthesis in the first paragraph of section 1, part B needed to be closed. The vote was called and the motion to accept the Resolution passed unanimously.

*Treasurer's Report*

In the absence of the treasurer Kathy Vetter, the report was presented by finance committee member Elizabeth Scarborough. Elizabeth expressed concern in reporting that we experienced a budget deficit last year and may possibly have one this year also. Dale Gibson suggested that Anita Morse be added to the list of Endowment Committee members mentioned in the report. Betty Asplund made a motion that we accept the treasurer's report as presented with this correction and this was seconded by Dave Wistreich. Following the discussion, Gary Metzler pointed out a typing error in which the headings "April and Y.T.D." were switched in position. A vote to accept the report was called and passed.

Bill Stevens made a motion that the congregation direct the Board of Trustees to transfer \$68,000 from the Tudor Estate holding account and any additional money bequeathed to the church from this estate, to the Endowment Fund. Darlene seconded this motion. Following discussion, Mary Beth made an amendment that 75% of the total estate money be transferred to the Endowment Fund and the remaining 25% could be used at the board's discretion. Due to the apparent need for further discussion of this issue, Bob Asplund moved to table the motion and amendment to allow for more study before a decision is made. The motion to table passed with 25 supporting and 6 dissenting votes.

#### *Church Budget for 2007-2008*

Elizabeth Scarborough presented the budget for next church year. Kay Azar made a motion to accept the budget which was seconded by Dave Wistreich. A discussion followed in which several congregants expressed concern that this was once again a deficit budget and the need for fiscal responsibility. The vote was called and passed with majority support, two opposed and two abstained.

Darlene Catello then moved that the board send out a letter to the entire congregation informing them of the adoption of a deficit budget, the need for an estimated \$7000 to fund our ministerial search process, and a request for increased contributions. This was seconded by \_\_\_ and a discussion followed. Dale Gibson called for closure of discussion, which was seconded by Jim Curlee and passed unanimously.

#### *Election of 2007-2008 Officers and Trustees*

Gary Metzler presented the slate of board nominees as selected by the nominating committee. Don Wheeler moved to accept the slate of nominees and this was seconded by Mary Hagen. This motion passed unanimously.

#### *2008 Nominating Committee and Endowment Committee Nominees*

Gary presented the slate for next year's nominating committee. Bob Asplund made a motion to accept the slate; this was seconded by Elizabeth Scarborough and passed. The slate for the endowment committee was then presented. Peggy Stevens made a motion to accept this slate; which was seconded by Betty Asplund and passed unanimously.

#### *Recognition*

Gary presented Cindy Benedict as the 2006-2007 Volunteer of the Year for all her work related to the care and ministerial committees, including her work in cooperation with two other Michiana churches to create a joint website and market the UU message.

The current board members were then recognized.

#### *Other Business*

Dave Wistreich announced that due to other commitments, he will be unable to manage the Christmas Tree sales next year. He also expressed some concern in continuing this annual event as we made little profit last year.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Peggy Stevens, seconded by Dale Gibson and passed.

Respectfully submitted

Kathleen Curtis  
Secretary pro tem