

**First Unitarian Church
Annual Meeting Minutes
June 1, 2008**

Members Present: A total of 44 members were present at the meeting. See the attached sheet.

Others Present: Lynn McDonald, Bethy Williams.

Call to Order: Kay Azar, Acting President, called the meeting to order at 12:15.

Determination of Quorum: Kay Azar asked if we had a quorum for the meeting. Anne Mannix, Secretary, reported that a quorum was present.

Invocation: Rev. Denise Tracy offered a prayer to begin the meeting.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes for the May 20, 2007 and the December 9, 2007 minutes were in the Annual Report. Kathy Wells made a motion to approve the minutes. Cindy Benedict made a second to the motion and all present voted in favor of the motion.

Minister's Report: Rev. Denise Tracy said thank you for the honor and pleasure of being our minister and wished us well. Her written report is contained in the Annual Report.

President's Report: Kay thanked Denise for all the blessings and love shared over the year. She referred members to her written report which is in the Annual Report.

Treasurer's Report/Approval of the 2008-2009 Church Budget: Gary Metzler, Treasurer, presented the 2008-2009 budget. The budget for the 2008-2009 and the previous year's budget are on separate sheets. An important point is the balance sheet. The balance sheet does not show our current church building, which was recently appraised at \$220,000, as an asset. Don Wheeler asked about the proposed deficit for this year. Gary said that he expects us to be in the red at the end of this year and that the exact amount is impossible to determine at this point. Elizabeth Scarborough said that the church has spent about \$1,100 in search activities. Rev. Denise Tracy stated that church giving has increased 33%. Nationally churches are having problems with stewardship because of the recession. A question was asked of why we have a deficit budget if donations have increased. Gary Metzler said that there have been increases in the areas of ministerial search expenses, minister's salary and expenses, religious education, and building maintenance. The church has made an effort to improve our salary in relation to the relevant UUA standards. Elizabeth Scarborough said that Rev. Lisa Doege was paid a total of \$68,653 including salary and benefits and that the new Interim Minister will be paid a total of \$67,306 in salary and benefits. Cindy Benedict made a motion to approve the budget. Bob Cope made a second to the motion. All present voted in favor and the motion was approved.

Elizabeth Scarborough made a motion that the church approve funds up to \$4,500 to pay the relocation expenses of the Interim Minister. The payments will be made on an expense reimbursement basis. Tom Platt made a second to the motion. The funds will come from the unrestricted savings of the church. A question was asked on why this expense item was not included in the budget or reviewed by the Board of Trustees. Elizabeth stated that this was an oversight and that the need for this became apparent after the hiring of the Interim Minister. Don Wheeler made a motion to approve the \$4,500 expense reimbursement and to take the funds from unrestricted savings. Anne Mannix made a second to the motion. All present voted in favor. Lynn McDonald suggested that we have a special fundraising campaign to cover this expense.

Nominating Committee Report: Kay Azar stated that there were not any names proposed for the Nominating Committee and asked for volunteers: Don Wheeler, Dale Gibson, Anne Mannix and Bob Cope volunteered for the Nominating Committee. Marilyn Shaul made a motion that Don Wheeler, Dale Gibson and Anne Mannix be appointed to the Nominating Committee and that Bob Cope be appointed as an alternate. All present voted in favor and the motion was approved.

Endowment Committee: Melanie Smith-Guillaume gave the report for the Endowment Committee. She made a motion that the Endowment Committee provide funding for the travel insurance for the YES trip to Mexico in the amount of \$450. Don Wheeler made a second to the motion and all present voted in favor.

Volunteer Recognition: Kay Azar thanked Board of Trustee members for their service to the church including Don Marti, Rich Wallace, Mary Hagen, Cindy Benedict, Gary Metzler, Anne Mannix and Bob Asplund.

Kay then presented a Lifetime Achievement Award to Glen Saha for his long standing work with the Church. The Volunteer of the Year award was presented to Zae Munn, and Charlotte and Emily Munn-Wood for their special music at services.

Other Business: Zae Munn proposed that the church work towards following the Home Environmental Checklist which was presented at an earlier Church Forum. Zae made a motion that the church worked towards meeting the UUA criteria for a Green Church. Maureen Wijnen made a second to the motion and all present voted in favor of the motion.

Barbara Williams made a presentation about a potential long term church project involving elderly housing called a Green House Project. This is an alternate way to deal with long term care for the elderly. Barbara and Mary Hagen are planning a trip to Detroit to see a project there. The next step would be to prepare a feasibility study and look for financing. Barbara made a motion that the church explore this idea as a possible church project for the next several years. Marilyn Shaul made a second to the motion and all present voted in favor.

Elizabeth Scarborough made a motion to adjourn at 1:04 and Bill Skidmore made a second to the motion. Kay Azar declared that the meeting was adjourned at 1:04 P.M.

Submitted by

Anne Mannix
Secretary