

Approved Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes May 22, 2016

1. A quorum was established and the meeting called to order by Joseph Gress, President.
2. Minutes from the May 17, 2015, December 13, 2015 and April 10 2016 Congregational meetings were approved.
3. Minister's report: Chip stated to please read the written annual report, we have had an interesting year with challenges. The congregation has met the challenges and we are stronger for it, keep it up.
4. President's report: Joseph Gress also referred to the report written in the annual report. He also reported that in December, 2015, we had to let our office manager go. She told us she had used the church credit card inappropriately, logging \$10,000 in expenses. \$5000 of this is covered by our insurance company and a police report has been filed. We will discuss the Sanctuary Issue with the bylaw change.
5. Vice President report: Gary Metzler stated the stewardship drive was successful, thank you for your generosity. Stewardship is an ongoing year-round committee, please consider membership on the stewardship committee.
6. Treasurer's report: Chuck Leone reports we are now using a different format for our financial reports. This fiscal year is not yet complete. Our projected June 30 income and expenditures compare with last year. Non-operating fund report: we are 1/2 way through our HVAC contract. We anticipated a \$18,000 gap in funding. We have exceeded this gap so there is no need to change our mortgage payment. As Joseph mentioned, we will receive \$5000 from our insurance company, church mutual. Question from Barbara Williams - are we going to small claims court? Chuck - if the prosecutor files criminal charges, there will be a restitution order.
7. Operating budget- Chuck said to look at page 14-15 in your annual report. Tom Platt moved to approve and Alice Bentley seconded the motion. Question from David Wistreich on the membership line item, there is a reimbursement not shown. Chuck answered that several people(Carlton, Ellen our CPA, Charlotte) over the course of this fiscal year have made entries into the accounting system. Chuck is confident that the sorting is fairly accurate and the total are not off. Call for the vote - Dan Holm. Voting was by hand, it was a clear majority approving the budget, no opposition, no abstentions.
8. Approval for Endowment Disbursement - motion by Dan Holm that \$10,000 regular disbursement be used for HVAC. Second - Dale Gibson. See endowment committee report p. 27. Question by Peggy Stevens - Is there a plan to repay? Barbara Williams - no because it is a regular disbursement. The purpose is within the mission of the church. The Endowment Committee felt that new HVAC system meets this criteria and is not included in the operating budget. Question from Alan Hamlet - does the money go back to the Endowment if there are no budget overruns? - Answer, no, the money will be spent. Motion was approved on verbal vote, no opposition, no abstentions.
9. Proposed By-Law changes - see page 17 and 18 of Annual Report. Under Article VI, the addition "d. No action committing the church to civil disobedience may be authorized without approval of the members at a regular meeting or special meeting of members" is *Annual Report 2017 2 First Unitarian Church* in reference to the offer of temporary sanctuary for Ibrahim Parlak. In December, ten members signed a petition to have a congregational meeting to discuss sanctuary to Ibrahim. At that point, imminent deportation was a

possibility and it would have taken 10 days to convene a congregational meeting. The Board after much discussion approved temporary sanctuary until the congregation could meet. This would have been an act of civil disobedience. Ibrahim received a stay and no action was needed. The Board felt an action of this magnitude should require a congregational vote. Anne Mannix moved and Dan Holm seconded “d” above. Question from Tama Crisovan - What did we offer? Joseph- Ibrahim would have lived here. Anne - could he be arrested? Joseph - yes, but authorities recognize sanctuary and often do not arrest. Susan Siemers - we needed ten days notice for call a congregational meeting and there were not 10 days. This means we could not have offered sanctuary. Joseph- at the point the Board became aware it was a few days before his protected status ran out. Dale Gibson - the current bylaws commit the church to having 10 days notice to call a congregational meeting. To commit ourselves to this kind of waiting period is not good, we put trust in our Board. Anne Mannix - did Ibrahim want this? Dale - He might be interested in it. I am proud of the Board at this meeting. Then Ibrahim decided no, after discussion with his lawyer. It seems like the waiting period of 10 days is too long. Could we reduce the wait time to call a congregational meeting to three days? Florence - the motion on the floor does not address how many days needed to call a congregational meeting. Joseph - if we approve this motion and people want to reduce the waiting period, it would be a by-law change and we cannot do that today. Janet Bogar - how do other churches handle this? Joseph - congregations that offer sanctuary make a decision after meetings and consideration. Once they make the decision to be a sanctuary church they empower the Board to decide when and who they offer sanctuary to. Dan - can a friendly amendment be added? Dave- It cannot be voted on today because it is a by-law change. Joseph - ten day notice is need for a by-law change. Anne Mannix - I would like our church to take on social activism for our community. Lois Holm - the Peace and Justice Committee offered cottage conversations on this topic and there was very little interest. Bill Stevens - we are looking at this narrowly in terms of Ibrahim. Joseph - the Peace and Justice Committee spoke with the UU Rise lawyer who deals with issues of sanctuary. In the cottage conversations, the conclusion was that we do not have proper privacy or shower facilities and because Ibrahim’s immediate need has disappeared, the Peace and Justice Committee did not recommend bringing it forward. Anne Mannix - it is a big decision and not everyone reads email. We can’t expect everyone to agree in a day. I do not think 10 days is unreasonable. Jim Curlee - I would like some perspective, what is our status now? Absent this amendment the Board interpreted they could offer temporary sanctuary. Lynn McDonald - action taken against a church is rare. Taking someone in your home is not as respected. Eli Williams - can we do anything online? Are there ways that a quick meeting could be called? Darlene - ten days seems like a long time, three days is more reasonable. Alice Bentley - should we shorten the ten days in the case of civil disobedience? Educate the congregation so that if and when this comes up we are more informed? Alan Hamlet - I do not like the “no action be taken without $\frac{2}{3}$ vote from the congregation or unanimous vote of the Board”. Kathy Vetter - this came from the Board. David Wistreich - for those of you who want fast action, consider - I was on the other side of the world. I still have doubts about whether or not Ibrahim did it. I would need time. Eli Williams - Donald Trump could be our president. Why have a ten day waiting period. Roger Birdsell- if we are making a decision that may endanger every member, we need to not rely on the Board itself. Danielle - we now have digital ability - why not have a digital policy of quick action? Joseph Gress - a proposal for a shorter waiting period would require a separate bylaw change. How would you define “emergency”? Rich Wallace - Civil disobedience for a just cause is warranted. A ten day wait could mean life or death. David Wistreich - would it be a simple majority or a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote? Joseph Gress - we discussed we should have a simple majority as

currently written. Chuck Leone - civil disobedience as an individual is very different than when a church does it. It would put the church at risk for example, forfeiture of assets. Anne Mannix - this is a significant decision. Do we put church assets at risk versus a collection of individuals? The BOT does not have the responsibility to put the church at risk. Lynn McDonald - I am not in favor of this. The UUA has a process to be trained to be a sanctuary congregation. Where are we, has there been a decision? Would favor to be able to act more quickly. Vote was by show of hands - yes 28, 1 proxy yes, no- 17, abstentions - 1 and 1 proxy, so 29 yes, 17, no, 2 abstentions. 29/48 votes = 60% and we needed a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote so the motion did not pass.

10. Next Amendment change - see page 17 of Annual report: From Article XIII - "All voting members of the Church shall be given due notice by mail **electronic transmission or through US Postal Service** of the proposed amendment(s) at least 10 (10) . Joseph - previously we made changes for electronic transmissions so we need to update Article XIII to make the bylaws consistent. Susan Siemers moved and Karen Dickson seconded. Question by Roger Birdsell - how do you determine if it is email or postal mail? Kathy Vetter - only 2 people currently do not have email and request postal mail. David Wistreich - this is a policy question, the BOT can determine the procedure. Vote - all yes, 0- no, 0- abstentions - over $\frac{2}{3}$, motion carried.

11. Endowment Policy change, see page 18 of Annual Report. Roger Birdsell moved and Dale Gibson seconded. Barbara Williams explained the 1st and 3rd change are due to how the UUA runs and the 2nd change- to no longer report the principle and interest, is because the financial reports do not show it. Voice vote- all yes, 0 - no, 0- abstentions, the motion carried.

12. Elections, see page 21 of Annual Report. Slate - No Vice President, Secretary-Melanie Smith-Guillaume, Trustees - Eli Williams and Florence Klecka, 2 year terms, Tama Crisovan- 1 year term (to complete Sharon Kniss term). Gary Metzler will move from Vice President to President and Chuck Leone continues one more year as treasurer. Don Marti has one more year on the board as a trustee. Rich Wallace moved to accept this slate, Dan French seconded. Joseph Gress - encouraged those present to consider being Vice President, adding it has been an honor and privilege to serve you and has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. Dale Gibson - I have never seen a slate without a vice president before, can we take a break? After break Chip apologized that he had forgotten to report back to the nominating committee that Susan Siemers had agreed to be Vice President. Vote by hand - all yes, 0- no, 0- abstentions

13. Peggy Stevens moved, Barbara Boyd seconded for Endowment committee - Dan French, 3 year term. Vote by hand - all yes, 0-no, 0-abstentions

14. Dan French moved, Lynn McDonald seconded for Nominating Committee - Joseph Gress, chair; Dan Holm current member with one more year; Susan Van Fleit - new member to the committee, 2 year term, Rich Wallace, alternate. Vote by hand - all yes, 0-no, 0- abstentions

15. Volunteer of the year award- the "power couple" David Mayfield and Florence Klecka. Florence serves as the chair of the Worship Arts committee, was on the Intern Committee, Stewardship committee, Marketing Committee and in the past was the chair of the Adult RE committee. David has been active in helping on Building and Grounds committee, insulating the attic, fixing cracks in the driveway, helping with the new HVAC task force, helps with sound system and was President of the BOT during our renovation.

16. Recognition also given to Joseph Gress for his work as President on the BOT, Gary Metzler as VP, Fern Hamlin as served 4 years on the BOT and done an excellent job with minutes. Recognition to Chuck Leone as treasurer during and especially challenging year, Gail deSomer for 4 years on the BOT, Tama Crisovan, Don Marti and Sharon Kniss for providing wise and thoughtful consideration during meetings.

17. Committee Reports - Kathy Vetter reported from Building and Grounds that we will have no AC or heat for the next 3 weeks, but we are on schedule for June 13 completion date of installation for the new HVAC system. We do not need to take out a loan, thank you to all who gave to the HVAC fund.

18. Peggy Stevens - move to adjourn. Final comments- Elena Wake stated the decision did not sit well with her on congregation meetings, would like to see a shorter interval to call a meeting. It was suggested that she take this to the BOT to ask for the BOT to recommend a By-Law change or it takes 10 members to request a congregation meeting. Vote to adjourn at 1:55 p.m.

Minutes taken and submitted by Gail deSomer, Trustee