

Unitarian Universalist Church of Muncie
Congregational Meeting Minutes—(approved Oct. 20, 2017)
May 21, 2017

The regularly-scheduled Spring Congregational meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Muncie was convened at 12:30 pm, May 21, 2017, at the church. Holly Hanauer, Board of Trustees President, presided over the meeting. Sharon Seager, Board of Trustees Secretary, was recording secretary. Bruce Craig acted as Parliamentarian. A total of 94 members of the congregation registered and received voting cards for the meeting. This number constituted a quorum of the members of the congregation. In addition to the 94 members in attendance, 20 members submitted absentee ballots, which were counted and figured in the vote tallies.

1. **Motion.** Bruce Craig moved, and Judith Roepke seconded, to approve the minutes from the previous Congregational meeting, held on November 13, 2016. The motion was approved.
2. **Motion.** Linda Hanson moved, and Bea Sousa seconded, to approve the two proposed changes to the By-Laws, which would 1) add a Youth Representative position to the Board of Trustees, as is common in many UU congregations, and as is true for the UUA Board of Trustees, and 2) change what constitutes a quorum of board members from “three” to a “majority.”
3. There was considerable discussion about details of the Youth Representative position on the Board. Did the Youth Representative have to be a “youth” or was that understood? Ben Ewing moved to amend the wording to include that the Board member representing the youth must be a member of the youth program. Seconded by Alyssa Farnsworth. Eleanor Johnson moved to amend the proposed revision by stating that the “youth representative must be between the ages of 15 through 19.” Ben Ewing recalled his proposed amendment, with agreement from Alyssa Farnsworth. This **motion passed**, and superseded the previous one.

Anna Dillinger, who is currently serving as Youth Representative on the Board, suggested changing the wording to “ages 13 through 15.” Judith Roepke suggested “13 through 19.”

Brandon Mundell argued that changing the age range to “13 through 21” might help to keep college-age students active and involved. Steve Robert seconded the proposed change. When put as a motion to amend the proposal, the **motion failed**, 34 yes, 46 no.

Motion. John Bartlett moved to change the wording on the proposed revision to “between the ages of 13 and 19.” Michael Mayfield seconded the motion. The **motion passed**.

Motion. Hanson moved the acceptance of the By-Laws revision, as amended. The **motion passed**.

President Holly Hanauer thanked the people who served on the Two Services (Exploration) Task Force during the last year.

4. **Motion.** Bea Sousa moved, and Erica Fluhr seconded, to bring the “Two Services” motion to the floor:

UUCM will hold two services during fiscal 2017-18, beginning September 10. The congregation will vote in May 2018 to a) continue with two services for another year or b) discontinue two services. The Task Force proposal will be the general framework for two services, with the understanding that changes may occur during the year. The additional costs for a second service are outlined in the Two Services Budget Addendum (copy provided). These funds have been raised through additional pledges.

Motion. Mike Sullivan moved that the vote be by secret ballot. Judith Roepke seconded the motion. The **motion passed** clearly.

There were brief remarks, both for and against the two-services proposal. Linda Gregory pointed out, “just to clarify” that the “two services would be on a given Sunday, not the whole year” [laughter followed]

Bea Sousa read a message from Rev. Drew Kennedy, former minister of UUCM. He still follows with great interest the developments in this church. He sent greetings, and support for the experiment.

Susan Bossung noted that this move was not successful in other local churches.

Eleanor Johnson urged people to support it.

Ron Burton opposed it, arguing that the money could be better spent in other ways.

Steve Robert called the Question, seconded by Phil Gift, to proceed with the vote.

The UUCM Board had previously determined that a 60% approval would be needed, in order for the Two-Services proposal to go into effect. Since 94 members were present and voting, approval required 56 votes. After the Absentee Ballots were counted, the final result was that the **motion passed**, 81 yes, and 37 no.

Usha Shivaswamy, Treasurer of UUCM, presented the Treasurer’s Report, showing the financial status of UUCM: Income and Expense, July 2016 through March 2017, and Balance Sheet, Previous Years Comparison, as of April 1, 2017.

Lynn Sousa, on behalf of the Finance Committee, presented the proposed Budget for 2017-18. He explained the process the committee used. The Finance Committee first received the Requests for items from the various committees, task forces, stakeholders in UUCM. If all requests were honored, the projected deficit would be more than \$25,000. For purposes of comparison, they also prepared an "austerity" budget, showing no increases in expenditures beyond mandated insurance. The committee and the Board thought that unwise. The final "suggested" budget presented to the Congregation includes some increased expenses, particularly in areas that would serve to promote growth. The projected deficit for 2017-18 will be approximately \$13,000. The Board recommends a special campaign in the fall to reduce this deficit. The Finance Committee concludes that the "overall fiscal health of the church seems very strong as evidenced by the raising of about \$60,000 for the new piano, the raising of \$11,000 to support an intern minister, and the promises of much of the \$12,000 required for a one-year two-service experiment should we vote to do that in May."

Lisa Cox voiced an objection to the Minister's raise as being too generous, a somewhat higher percentage than other employees will receive.

Motion. Phil Gift moved to accept the Budget for 2017-18 as presented by the Finance Committee. Judith Roepke seconded the motion. The **motion passed** clearly.

Election of Board Officers.

President Holly Hanauer recognized and thanked two members of the Board whose terms are expiring: Sherry Ware, who served as President and Past-President, and Usha Shivaswamy, who served as Treasurer. She also recognized Susan Bossung, who served as Vice President and chair of the Program Council for two years.

Motion. Sherry Ware moved the acceptance of the Nominating Committee's recommendations for office, beginning July 1, 2017:

President-Elect: Ginny Nilles

Vice President: John Bartlett

Treasurer: Jennifer Hollems

Nominating Committee: Lisa Kuriscak

Motion. Judith Roepke moved to accept the names presented by the Nominations Committee, and close the floor to further nominations. The **motion passed** overwhelmingly.

The meeting was officially adjourned at 2:00 pm. By President Holly Hanauer.

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Seager, Secretary of UUCM Board of Trustees.