

Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist  
Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting  
May 19, 2013

Board Vice President Bridget Smith called the Annual Congregational meeting to order at 11:30 am. Reverend Hilary Krivchenia added her welcome to the congregation and ended with a reading.

Bridget Smith then stated the requirements for voting at the Annual Meeting. The right to vote is limited to those who have been members for 31 days and have paid a pledge or received an exemption. The Annual meeting requirement is for a quorum of 20% of the voting members to be present at the meeting. With a certified membership of 305 members, the required number is 62 members present at the meeting. Based on a physical count of those present with hands raised as qualifying with a right to vote, Trustees Tom MacTavish and Kathy Dahlgren reported that 90 members were present. Bridget Smith reported that we had a quorum present.

### **Overview of key activity and accomplishments for 2012-2013**

Bridget Smith referred to a number of important accomplishments during the past twelve months.

An Outreach Steering Committee was established that consists of eight members. Laura Mandell, Bruce Bendix, Siri Laurin, Nancy Klein, Dan Huntsha, Lorraine LeBlond, Melanie Schikore, and Matt Myren have all agreed to serve on this committee.

The congregation then watched a video prepared by Kathy Dahlgren which showed the members of Countryside Church visiting each of the four recipients of the 2012-2013 outreach awards as they delivered checks to each of the four organizations.

Countryside Church members completed a survey this year that was shared with the congregation at a meeting on May 5<sup>th</sup>. The survey results are available to members on the CCUU website. Bridget thanked Cathy Maraist and Richard Chay for their work on designing the survey and reporting the results to the staff, our Ministers, the Ministry Council leadership and to the membership.

Bridget Smith mentioned the Board's effort this past year in holding Town Hall meeting on the 2013-14 budget and other Board related projects.

Bridget Smith thanked the Rose Team (Art Paton, Janet McDonnell, Marty Farrington and Ken Sepos) for their efforts this past year to understand the interest of members of the congregation in exploring the possibility of changing the name Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist. After many months of discussion with a number of members of the Congregation, the Rose Team recommended that further exploration of the name change be discontinued.

The renovation of the sanctuary is underway. Bridget noted that the chairs have been recovered, largely through the efforts of Lois Phillips. New carpet is on order and will be installed once the front of the sanctuary has been renovated.

Paul Sneddon mentioned the design work that has been in progress since December, 2012. The design team consisting of our Ministers, staff, and members of the congregation reviewed plans and renderings with the Board at the May 15 meeting. The Board voted to approve the concept drawings and share the plan with the congregation in the coming weeks. The congregation was asked to direct any comments or feedback to the team for their consideration.

### **Announcement of leadership positions and vote.**

#### a. For the Board of Trustees

Nominees for the Board of Trustees:

- Treasurer - Beth Ligouri [2-year term]
- Secretary - Deb Quentel [2-year term]
- Gloria Kinney [2-year term]
- John Mosman [2-year term]
- Sheryl Skifstad [1-year term- Completing 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Beth Ligouri's 2-year Trustee term]

Continuing on the Board of Trustees:

- President- Beverly Sneddon [2 year term]
- Vice President- Bridget Smith [Completing 2<sup>nd</sup> year of 2 year term]
- Tom MacTavish [Completing 2<sup>nd</sup> year of 2 year term]
- Kathy Dahlgren [Completing 2<sup>nd</sup> year of 2 year term]

Tracy Boland made a motion to approve the slate of Trustees and Board officers for 2013-2014. Upon voice vote, Bridget Smith reported that the motion carried unanimously.

#### b. For the Endowment Committee

Nominee for the Endowment Committee:

1. Kay Gredell (5-year term)

Continuing on the Endowment Committee:

2. Chris Smith (fifth year of 5-year term)
3. Art Mayfield (fourth year of 5-year term)
4. Karen Greenland (third year of 5-year term)
5. Mike Berry (second year of 5-year term)

Jim Booth made a motion to approve the slate of nominees for the Endowment Committee. Upon voice vote, Bridget Smith reported that the motion carried unanimously.

### c. For the Nominating Committee

Three people will continue in the second year of their 2-year terms, and the Board will appoint a seventh person for a 1-year term.

Nominees for the Nominating Committee:

1. Jeanie Michalec [2-year final term]
2. Melanie Schikore [2-year final term]
3. Lisa Hagenbuch [2-year first term]

Continuing on the Nominating Committee:

1. Mike Gilley (second year of final 2-year term)
2. Siri Laurin (second year of 2-year term)
3. Laura Mandell (second year of 2-year term)

Mary Janes made a motion to approve the slate of nominees for the Nominating Committee. Upon voice vote, Bridget Smith reported that the motion carried unanimously.

### **Stewardship Campaign Update**

Treasurer Greg Sweigert updated the congregation on the status of the 2013-2014 Stewardship Campaign. He remarked that it was very successful with about an 11% increase in pledge income over last year. Greg noted that we started the campaign earlier this year, involved Ministry Council leadership in the process, and encouraged members to use the automatic deposit practice (electronic funds transfer) known as Countryside express. All of these factors are believed to have helped Countryside complete a very successful campaign this year.

### **2013-2014 Operating Budget**

Greg Sweigert presented the budget to the congregation and referred them to various pages of their handout as he talked through the numbers.

Income totaled \$473,050 as noted in the handout. There were modest changes to some budget lines consist with Personnel Committee recommendations, Board discussion, and a sound budget plan. He noted that we reinstated our dues to the UUA in full after having decreased them in 2012-2013. He noted the amounts budgeted of outreach as income and expense and mentioned that the budget for outreach was exceeded through the generosity of the congregation at the Snowflake Benefit and the music event.

Greg also explained that Wayne Stein left \$100,000 of his estate to Countryside with \$15,000 designated to the Building Fund, \$35,000 to the Endowment Fund and \$50,000 for the Operating Reserve Fund.

Members raised the following questions about the budget.

One member asked about salaries and staff related expenses and noted the lack of a significant increase. Greg Sweigert explained that the staff suggested increases in their professional development expenses and the Board took their request under advisement when preparing the budget.

Another member thanked the Board as representatives and the entire congregation for an outstanding budget process and outcome for 2013-2014. Yet another member of the congregation asked that Greg Blus be thanked and recognized for his work as Stewardship Chair especially as it was not expected that the Board President take on this role. The congregation expressed its appreciation for Greg's work.

A question was asked about the about of the capital reserve. It was noted that there is about \$140,000 in the capital reserve and allocated to different accounts.

Finally, another member of the congregation asked about the possibility of leaks in the roof over the sanctuary and in the choir practice room. Mark Huston, who serves on the Facilities Committee, commented on the work done on the roof in various places in the building and that some fascia and connection points were being examined for possible areas of water penetration.

Bridget Smith asked for a motion to approve the budget as presented. Carole Bobbe made a motion to approve the 2013-2014 budget. Upon voice vote, the motion carried with one member abstaining and the balance of the members voting to accept the motion to approve the budget.

### **Recognition of outgoing Board of Trustees and members of other committees**

Vice President Bridget Smith thanked a number of members of leadership for their service. Bridget Smith also thanked other outgoing leaders (Ministry Council and Nominating and other standing committees):

- Greg Blus- President
- Richard Chay - Secretary
- Greg Sweigert - Treasurer
- Fran Mueller- Endowment Committee (completed Wayne Stein's term)
- Kristin Huston- Board appointed Nominating Committee member
- Bill Huber – Nominating Committee member

Leslie Peet thanked Gail Wisznewski for Gail's service on the Green Sanctuary Committee. Jim Booth noted that Jane Matthews was ending her term on the Living the Welcoming Congregation Committee. Robin LaBedz was thanked for her service on the Personnel Committee.

Reverend Hilary Krivchenia offered closing words to the congregation.

Alan Greenland made a motion to adjourn.

Upon voice vote, Bridget Smith adjourned the meeting at 12:31 pm.

Minutes submitted by Richard Chay, Board of Trustees, Secretary, Countryside Church