

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb

Congregational Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2017

Present: A quorum of the congregation was present.

Order: called to order by President Jack Lazzara at 11:08 a.m.

Secretary: Diane Johns serving in AnneMarie Clifford's absence

**Business of the Meeting**

Approval of May Minutes: moved for approval by Dan Kenney, seconded by Bill Lamb. The minutes were accepted.

Approval of the Agenda: The agenda was approved and accepted in its current form.

Minister's Report: Rev. Jennifer Gray

- She is usually here on the first and third Sundays arriving on Sunday of the month with one other day on each Sunday.
- She encourages people to reach out by phone or email.
- She has been learning about congregations in transitions.
- Acknowledged there have been some challenges and emphasized that this is a healthy congregation.
- Stated a goal of working on leadership development with the congregation.
- In denominational affairs: General Assembly saw our first female elected president. We can follow what is going on at the UUA via the UU World. Rev. Jenn is on the GA planning committee and will be gone periodically for that. People who volunteer can get all or part of their expenses paid.
- Rev. Jenn guided the congregation through an exercise in which we wrote down where we wanted to see the congregation in three years.

Treasurer's Report: Kriss Olsen and Kathy Clark

- Money is kept in a safe after the Sunday collection.
- We are at 47% of our budget for the year.
- We are in good shape.
- We have almost \$37K left in the BOF fund, including some memorial funds that have been moved there.
- The congregational clarified through questions that the BOF money has a variety of purposes and it kept track of by the treasurer.
- Social justice has its own account, which is done well and has earned \$4 in interest.
- Kathy, Kriss and Beth are doing an amazing job with the finances of the congregation.

Building Our Future Update: President Jack Lazzara

- Some received funds have been earmarked for the building
- Some funds have been spent on painting and flooring.
- Solar tubes are planned in the sanctuary.
- \$1500 was pledged for the Fellowship Hall floor.
- \$140 was pledged for building improvements.
- \$7,200 was pledged for solar tubes.
- \$50,000 was not specified.
- \$2,600 for staff salaries.
- \$30,188 of amount already paid was not specified
- Half has been paid for the floor and half will be paid on completion.

Religious Education Update: Ashley Ford

- Ashley started as RE Administrator, which was a new position, in July.
- The position was designed to support the DRE. We no longer have a DRE.
- Ashley has focused on increasing structure on the program.
- They are currently UU Pillars program, which has mixed feedback from the parents.

- The spring curriculum will focus on gardening and cover the three pillars of RE.
- RE will be seeking feedback from members and parents about the RE program.
- Ashley thanked the volunteers and asked for move help in December.
- Question regarding new DRE from the congregation: Rev. Jenn responded the search process will be determined later.

#### Congregational Support and Development Update: Dave Becker

- Dave opened with thanks to Sharon Blake for chairing the committee for so long.
- Beth, the office manager, has taken charge of coordinating some items.
- 12 people attended the recent New to UU class and we had three members from that class.
- 1 new member signed up over the summer.
- When we look for people to support members of the congregation please sign up.
- We are looking for new co-leaders for the CS and D ministry.

#### Social Justice and Outreach: Maylan Dunn-Kenney

- A lot of people are involved with helping in this ministry.
- Areas that need assistance:
  - o Welcome Essentials Pantry.
  - o Hope Haven meals.
  - o Special collections.
  - o Welcoming Western counties.
  - o UUSC/Guest at your table.
  - o UUANI's Action of the Week
  - o Winter Markets (with thanks to Bonnie and Beth for their help!)
- The SJC participated with Annie's Closet with the Lutheran church in Sycamore but there wasn't a lot of response.
- There are several more things we could be doing with more help.
  - o Fair tax initiative.
  - o UU Church in Champaign is working to develop a Death with Dignity Law in Illinois.
  - o Study and Organize against long-term solitary confinement.
  - o Feed My Starving Children Campaign.

#### Presentation/Vote for Nominating committee: Bill Lamb

- The nominating committee is responsible for finding candidates willing to serve on the board. Please talk to one of them if you are interested.
- Committee Slate:
  - o Florence Gerlach
  - o Kathy Clark
  - o Maylan Dunn-Kenny
  - o Danica Lovings
- Lon Clark moved that the slate be accepted. It was unanimously accepted.

#### Public Comments: Bill Lamb

- Discussion of move to half time ministry.
- Members were asked to raise their hands if they wanted to see Rev. Jenn moved to half time.
- Members were asked to raise their hands if they were willing to increase their pledge
- The head of the Transition Team, Virginia W, pointed out that we would have liked to have hired for half time ministry but couldn't afford it.
- Discussion of the previous minister's salary and work hours.
- Discussion of Safety Committee
- Bill and Lon would like to form a safety committee task force due to a recent church mass shooting. Bill asked about interest.
- Rev. Jenn states her last church had one and there are lots of things that could help.
- There was a discussion about the last DRE leaving the congregation.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m. with a brief closing reading by Jack.