

First Unitarian Church of Cincinnati

Congregational Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2013

Call to Order: Dave Wallace, President of the Board of Trustees, convened the meeting at 11:30am and welcomed the congregation.

Approval of Minutes for Prior Meetings: The minutes from the congregational meeting on January 27, 2013, were approved as submitted.

Elections: Following a presentation by Jenny Krueger on the process used by the Nominating Committee to select this year's slate, the congregation approved Lynne Ambrosini, Andy Chirch and Peter Koenig as new board members, serving three-year terms. The congregation also approved Mike Schmidt and Heather Zoller as new members of the Nominating Committee, serving two-year terms. At its May meeting, the Board elected Lee Koehler to serve a five-year term on the Endowment Fund Board; the congregation affirmed this election. Additionally, the Board has appointed Tim Kraus to serve a one-year term on the Nominating Committee.

Endowment Fund: Tom Kahle gave a brief description of how the Endowment Fund functions and answered questions raised by the congregation. The current market value of the Fund is \$930,000. Tom predicts approximately \$38,000 will be available for allocation this year, for purposes to be determined by the Board of Trustees. He acknowledged the key role the late Scott Aiken played as chair and member of the Endowment Fund Board, and reminded the congregation that memorials are an important way to grow the endowment. Becky Algenio thanked Tom for his five years on the Fund Board and for his role in initiating the First Church Legacy Society.

Registrar's Report: Congregational Registrar Linda Miltner announced that six new members – Tom Cottrill, Lisa and Brett Davis-Roberts, Janet Schneider, Mary Wells and Kate White – were attending their first congregational meeting in order to establish voting rights. First Church currently has a total of 303 members.

Committee Support Team Presentation: Linda Miltner provided a brief history of the Committee Support Team and its current role. In the past year, the committee has conducted a comprehensive committee needs assessment, interviewed the chairs of every committee and created a new Committee Handbook that will be updated regularly. The handbook will be an invaluable congregational resource. Linda and Alex Resly will be the co-chairs of the committee for 2013/2014 and Larry Pytlinsky will be the Board liaison.

Stewardship Committee Report: Canvas co-chair Nelson Horseman reported that the projected amount to be raised by this year's stewardship campaign is \$364,000, with 94% of pledge units pledging. This represents an increase over what was raised last year, but is short of this year's stretch goal of \$376,000. Nelson acknowledged his co-chair, Eisha Armstrong, especially for her role in making it possible for members to pledge and fulfill pledges on-line. Dave Wallace also thanked Nelson and Eisha for their hard work on the campaign.

Staffing Model Update: Dave Wallace explained that the first draft of the 2013/2014 budget, which assumed canvass income of \$376,000, included three new staff positions: an Operations Director, Facilities Manager and Keyboardist. Because the canvass came in short of goal, the Board is unable to fully implement this staffing model and has opted to put the emphasis on

rectifying shortages in the operational side of the church budget. As a result, there will not be sufficient revenue to hire a keyboardist. As a compromise solution, the Board recommended increasing the music budget by 70%. The additional funding can be used toward paying a keyboardist as needed.

2013-14 1st Church Budget: Finance Committee Chair Dennis Frank-Finney reviewed the process for developing the church's annual budget, presented the proposed 2013-14 budget and answered questions related to it. The congregation then passed the budget as submitted. Member Ken Stern recommended that the Board look more closely at the percentage of the church budget that goes to efforts "beyond our walls" going forward.

Minister's Report: Sharon was unable to attend the congregational meeting due to family obligations. Dave read her written report to the congregation.

Board President Report:

In the interest of time, Dave restricted his report to acknowledging the significant contributions of many members of the congregation in the past year, including:

- Carol Carlson – for her service as the chair of the Social Justice Committee and for founding the Avondale tutoring program.
- Alan Atkinson – for formalizing our involvement with the Interfaith Hospitality Network.
- Morita Marmo – for serving as chair of the Extended Ministry Committee; Morita will continue on the committee next year, but not as chair.
- Shelly Wallace and Beth Whalen – for their leadership of the Membership Committee.
- Al Lloyd and Ray Sinclair – for recruiting and training Sunday morning ushers.
- Tom Roher – for maximizing the benefit First Church receives from the Kroger donation program.
- Ed Rider – for serving as Facilities Manager for more than a year, on a volunteer basis.
- Tim Kraus, Anna Moore and Jayson Zoller – for their three years of service and leadership on the Board.

Dave also thanked the staff, Board and congregation for their support during his presidency. He will provide a more complete description of the Board's accomplishments for 2012/2013 in an upcoming newsletter article.

Adjournment: After delivering final remarks and hearing no objections, Dave adjourned the meeting at 12:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lyn Martin, Secretary for the Board of Trustees