

## **First Unitarian Church of Cincinnati**

### **Congregational Meeting Minutes**

**January 27, 2013**

**Call to Order:** Dave Wallace, President of the Board of Trustees, convened the meeting at 12:20pm and welcomed the congregation.

**Approval of Minutes for Prior Meetings:** The minutes from the congregational meeting on September 23, 2012, were approved as submitted.

**Board President Report:** Dave provided several staff updates. He welcomed Assistant Minister Frank Carpenter back to work following his medical leave. Financial Secretary John Hines has resigned and the Board is working on a short- and long-term transition plan to cover his responsibilities. Sharon's parents are both experiencing significant health issues which may require her time and attention. The Board will support her during this challenging time.

Dave also urged the congregation to attend the Heart & Hand Auction – the church's largest fundraiser of the year – on Saturday, February 9.

**Minister's Report:** Sharon thanked the staff for its good work, the Board for its support, and committees for their effective collaborations. She also thanked Eisha Armstrong and Nelson Horseman for agreeing to co-chair this year's pledge campaign and Allen Atkinson for his work with the Interfaith Hospitality Network. She announced that a tentative worship schedule through June 30 is now available and described several community efforts by the Avondale clergy and AMOS that the congregation may want to be involved with in the future.

**Establishing Voting Rights:** Congregational Registrar Linda Miltner announced that six new members – Allen and Jenna Atkinson, Carole Cottrill, Alexis Harris, Barbara Homlar and Meredith Krueger – were attending their first congregational meeting in order to establish voting rights. First Church currently has a total of 302 members.

**Amendments to Articles of Incorporation:** As previously described at the congregational meeting in September 2012, at a Congregational Conversation in October 2012, in communications on the listserv and in a newsletter article, First Church's insurer is requiring the addition of a dissolution clause to the Articles of Incorporation. The requirement led the Board to review and update the Articles. As a result of questions raised at the Congregational Conversation, the language for Article 7 has been changed to clarify arrangements for the disposal of assets in the case of dissolution and eliminate any conflicts with other governing documents. The motion to approve the changes passed unanimously. Dave thanked member Tom Kahle for his assistance and advice during the amendment process. Discussion about another issue raised at the Congregational Conversation – whether or not to change the church's name to First Unitarian Universalist Church - was postponed.

**Endowment Fund:** Tom Kahle gave a brief description of how the Endowment Fund was established and how it functions. The current market value of the Fund is \$945,000. Tom predicts approximately \$39,000 will be available for allocation this year, for purposes to be determined by the Board of Trustees. The Fund Board has produced two informational brochures in an effort to improve awareness of the Fund and grow the Legacy Society. Several members of the congregation raised questions about whether Endowment Fund investments were in line with the church's position on social issues such as the arms industry and fossil fuels.

Tom acknowledged the tension between meeting financial benchmarks and honoring the congregation's social concerns and will continue to keep this in mind during discussions with the Fund's investment advisor.

**District Reorganization:** Susan French, First Church's delegate to the Heartland District Board, gave a presentation about the proposed district reorganization which will merge the current Prairie Star, Central Midwest and Heartland Districts as the MidAmerica Region. Susan and Sharon will attend the Heartland District meeting in April for the vote. If all three districts approve the change, it will be effective July 1, 2013.

**General Assembly Planning:** Barb Rider provided information about GA 2013 which will be held on June 19-23 in Louisville, KY.

**Announcement:** Board Vice President Tim Kraus announced Church Council will meet on Saturday, February 2 from 9am to noon. (Later rescheduled for February 9 due to inclement weather.)

**Adjournment:** After delivering final remarks and hearing no objections, Dave adjourned the meeting at 1:20pm.

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