

Unitarian Universalist Church at Washington Crossing

268 Washington Crossing-Pennington Road, Titusville, NJ 08560



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Annual Meeting Minutes

June 4, 2017

Acting Board President Pam Shadzik called the meeting to order at 11:45 am. 99 members were present. Board Secretary Michael Dalzell confirmed that the necessary quorum was established.

Holly Bussey moved that the minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting be accepted. Pete Rafle seconded. **Motion carried unanimously.**

SERVICE AWARDS

Acting President Pam Shadzik described the new awards selection process, then presented the first-ever Distinguished Service Awards to the following winners:

- Nathalie Edmond, for work on the Racial Justice Initiative
- Adelaide Groth-Tuft, for her dedication to the Children's Religious Education program
- Andy Kidd, for his work on the Building Committee
- Loren McAlister, for her work on the Caring Committee
- Donna Miller, for years of fundraising work and support for the transgender community
- Lori O'Neil, for her graphic arts support of every program within the church
- Bonnie Ruekgauer, for her coordination of ushers and greeters
- Connie Schofer, for work on auction

The Order of the Flaming Chalice was awarded to George Faulkner, who was not present and accepted his award after the meeting.

LEADERSHIP REPORTS

Further information about items in the Board, Minister, DLRE, and Office Administrator's presentations can be found in Exhibit A, "Board and Annual Executive Team Report 2016-17." Further information about information presented in other leadership reports can be found in Exhibit B, the UUCWC Annual Report.

Board of Trustees

Acting President Pam Shadzik reviewed three goals the Board of Trustees set at the beginning of the 2016-2017 fiscal year, then described progress made toward them:

- *Develop a vision for a capital campaign.* We began the year by meeting and contracting with a capital campaign consultant. Later, the board appointed a Strategic Visioning Task Force, charged with conducting fact-finding, developing recommendations for capital improvements, holding cottage meetings to get congregational input on the recommendations, and using that input to develop a statement of rationale for a capital campaign. This statement will be presented to the congregation in Fall 2017.

- *Support for expansion of the Racial Justice Initiative (RJI).* The RJI is in its second year at UUCWC; details of its expansion are described in the RJI leadership report, below.
- *Move forward with becoming a teaching congregation.* We have hired a ministerial intern, whose tenure will begin Aug. 1.

Minister's Report

Rev. Kim Wildszewski shared highlights and accomplishments from the current fiscal year:

- Building a community while growing and projecting our shared values is challenging work. Rev. Kim raised up church leaders who step forward to see our work through.
- Ours is a busy building. Sunday service attendance averages 225. This year, we average 30 meetings per month during the day in the church, versus only 2 last year. We have 31 new members this year, and current membership stands at 290. Including friends and children in RE programs, we are a system of 496 people.
- We take this growth seriously and are trying to place an emphasis on fun and community. Rev. Kim invited Erin Busch to the pulpit to speak about a series of concerts she will lead at UUCWC during the next fiscal year.
- Ana DelCorazon has stepped up to coordinate volunteers and find cohesion between Membership, Community Building, and other groups to assist with connecting people.
- Rev. Kim listed milestones: child dedications, passings, and weddings.
- Our Stewardship campaign netted \$407,495 in pledges — the first time we've exceeded \$400,000. 73% of those canvassed raised their pledges to help us achieve this threshold.

Director of Lifespan Religious Education

DLRE Robin Pugh reviewed the 2016–2017 fiscal year in RE and looked ahead to 2017–2018.

- There are 117 children in the RE program –15 more than last year.
- Robin made a plea for volunteers — especially now that RE teachers are stepping into leadership positions.
- In OWL classes, this was the first year in which sexuality and puberty was discussed.
- Our new child care coordinator is working out well.
- Robin has spent more time this year developing the full RE program, not just the children's program. Examples:
 - Beloved Conversations, in which 57 adults enrolled this year
 - New programs to come this fall: Coming of Age for Adults, which will include a heritage trip to Boston; and groups that will meet to discuss the monthly theme – a chance to deepen spiritual connection, with more interaction than in chalice circles.

Office Administrator/Facilities

Office Administrator Susan Irgang provided an update on improvements to the facility during the past fiscal year. Looking ahead, total renovation of the upstairs restrooms will begin this summer. Downstairs restrooms will undergo some cosmetic improvements, but full renovation will not begin until plans for the capital campaign are clear, as the possible inclusion of kitchen expansion in the capital campaign may affect any prior plans for the downstairs restrooms.

Parking expansion plans are moving forward, albeit slowly because of bureaucracy. We need approval from four regulatory agencies to proceed. We have met requirements of two (D&R Canal Commission and Hopewell Twp. Fire Dept.; approval from two others (Mercer Co. Planning Board and Mercer Co. Soil Conservation District) are pending surveys and other prerequisites. All four must approve before Hopewell Township will sign off on the plans.

Susan gave a shout-out to Facilities teams leaders for their hard and dedicated work.

Racial Justice Initiative (RJI)

Nathalie Edmond and Dan Tuft summarized congregational input on Black Lives Matter (BLM). In September, the RJI facilitated circles on BLM. Ultimately, a straw poll was taken on support for placement of a BLM banner on the church lawn. The results led RJI to pursue development of a broader-themed banner that expresses multiple congregational values. Design of the banner was affirmed at a congregational meeting in April. Nathalie, Dan, and Sallie Dunner unveiled the banner today.

Nathalie and Dan reviewed additional RJI activities this year:

- Beloved Conversations sessions
- Establishment of the Faith in Action Facebook page
- Group meetings on the topic of white supremacy

On Sunday July 9, Dr Ruha Benjamin of Princeton University's Department of African American Studies, will speak at UUCWC about race and modern segregationism.

This fall, we are participating in a campaign to end the New Jim Crow. There will be a film and panel discussion at UUCWC, and related activities will follow during the 2017–2018 fiscal year:

- Education and discussion in small groups
- How to bridge and make connections with others who are doing similar work
- Service and activism – and how to participate
- How do we look at and recognize white supremacy within our own congregation – and how do we deal with it?

Council for Faith in Action (CFA)

Through CFA, UUCWC donates 50% of Sunday plate collections to organizations and social justice causes the church elects to support. According to CFA Chair Sallie Dunner, donations totaling \$8,000 were made to a variety of organization, including:

- HomeFront, for furnishings at the Family Preservation center
- Trenton Area Children's Chorus
- Anchor House
- The Peace Center
- Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
- Oxfam America
- UU Service Committee
- UU–United Nations Office. Donation of \$1,000 this year was divided between the office's climate justice and Every Child is Our Child programs
- Equal Justice Initiative

- Programs for the homeless, the unemployed, abused women, and children
- Funding for RJI activities, including purchase of Beloved Conversations curriculum

Strategic Visioning Task Force

Task force chair Jayme Trott reviewed the work of the task force to date. The task force has reviewed UUCWC's 5-year strategic plan, repair-and-replacement lists developed by the Facilities Management Team, and notes from previous renovation teams and staff. The task force has compiled a list of potential improvements and estimated costs of implementing them.

The task force is ready to share these projects with the congregation. Each person is encouraged to come to one of cottage meetings scheduled over the next two months and share thoughts about improvements to our building and grounds that will enable us to carry out our mission.

Food Ministry

The Food Ministry Provides free and nutritious meals to children, families, and low-income senior citizens in our community. Over six years, it has served more than 13,000 meals.

Food Ministry Chair Mike Muccioli described the launch of a grant program, funded by more than \$7,000 in donations from congregants to the Rollie Rahn Memorial Fund. The Food Ministry has coordinated with HomeFront to provide grants of up to \$1,000 for youths enrolled in HomeFront's culinary training or nutrition programs. These grants would: help to offset tuition/fees at a culinary arts program at an adult vocational school, community college, or other culinary arts instruction program under contract with HomeFront; or to be used to pay for ServSafe training and certification. Grant applications and funding are routed through HomeFront. Lori Rahn, the Food Ministry, and the Finance Committee have funding discretion.

Endowment

Endowment Chair Jim Erb announced that 3 of 4 grant requests were funded this year:

- \$1,900 to the ministerial intern search team to subsidize housing costs for the incoming ministerial intern
- \$2,000 to the Earth Ministry to place energy-saving film on church windows
- \$1,000 to the Communications Team for an audiovisual system for the Crossings Room

The balance in the Endowment is \$158,000.

Jim also described the [Wake Now Our Vision](#) (WNOV) campaign, a program in which the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock will make a matching donation of up to 10% for legacy gifts made to one of 6 organizations through Dec. 31, 2018:

- Church of the Larger Fellowship
- UU Ministers Association
- Meadville Lombard Theological School
- Starr King School for the Ministry
- UUA
- UU Service Committee

WNOV also will match gifts made to our own congregation. Gifts may be made through a will, charitable trust, annuity, or other planned giving program. Gifts are payable immediately, not at the time of disbursement from an estate. See Endowment for a donation form.

Treasurer's Report

[Editor's note: This presentation accounts for the first 11 months of the 2016–2017 budget year. Please refer to the Treasurer's Report in the minutes of the August 2017 Board of Trustees meeting [MD1] for final 2016–2017 financial information.]

Treasurer Lynne Quinto presented budget highlights of the 2016–2017 fiscal year. Through May, these include:

Income

- A surplus >\$32,000 in excess of projections (this is not an end-of-year final calculation)
- Plate collections have increased this year, allowing UUCWC to increase funding for social justice programs (50% of Sunday collections fund these programs through CFA)
- The annual auction netted approximately \$48,000 after expenses

Expenses

- Staffing is about 60% of total operating budget
- We allocated \$8,000 more this year to the building reserve than in previous years
- Snow removal expenses were relatively high, owing to one large storm in January

Other

- Account balances (not including reserves) total approximately \$150,000 (refer to Exhibit C). The largest reserve fund is the Building Reserve, which totals \$55,909

PRESENTATION OF THE 2017–2018 PROPOSED BUDGET

Finance Committee Chair Joe Schenk presented highlights of the proposed 2017–2018 budget, a draft of which was distributed at a May 21 informational meeting and discussion. The proposed \$496,000 budget contains a \$2623 surplus. Please refer to Exhibit D for full budget details.

Joe displayed pie charts showing sources of income and broad categories of expenditures in the coming fiscal year. Joe also mentioned that we have 5.3 months of operating reserves in the bank. We have been working at building this for some time. The standard for not-for-profit organizations is 3 months, so this reflects the financial strength of our congregation.

No questions about the budget were received from the floor. Jim Erb moved that we accept the budget as presented. Bud Johnson seconded. **The motion passed unanimously.**

PRESENTATION OF THE SLATE

Geri Koblis presented the slate of leadership nominees (see Exhibit E), noting that a large proportion of people moving into leadership roles at UUCWC are doing so for the first time.

In keeping with the governance structure presented at the 2014 Annual Meeting and formalized through policy by the board in November 2014, the slate lists individuals in two categories:

Nominees for election to governance positions (Board of Trustees and governance committees). Nominees for these positions are forwarded by the Nominating Committee, though nominations are also accepted from the floor. Candidates are elected by the congregation.

Leaders of ministry teams and other groups. Ministry teams are encouraged to develop their own leaders from within. These positions are not filled by the Nominating Committee, nor are Nominations for these positions taken from the floor. As a check and balance, the congregation is asked to “affirm” ministry teams’ selections of leaders.

Bud Johnson moved to accept the slate as presented. Parker Cohen seconded. No discussion or questions were offered, and no nominations were received from the floor. The **motion passed unanimously.**

RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS

Ed Dobrowolski recognized the contributions to the board of Heather Edwards, Andrew Conrad, Mike Dalzell, and Kathy Frey, whose terms end with the 2016–2017 fiscal year.

ADJOURNMENT

Rev. Kim offered closing words.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael Dalzell", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Dalzell, Secretary, Board of Trustees