

First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City
Annual Congregational Meeting
May 17, 2015 - 1:00 pm

MINUTES

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Erin Phinney-Johnson, Board President. By a count of members in attendance, it was established that a voting quorum was present. Copies of the 2015 Annual Report were distributed.

Introduction

Reminder of Policy Governance Model - Erin Phinney-Johnson

The Board of Trustees has completed its second year under the Policy Governance structure, which frees the Board from everyday church administration and management and allows the Board to focus on long-term strategic planning. During the 2014-2015 church year, the Board focused on two primary purposes. First, Board meetings followed a Future Focused Agenda. Second, the Board worked with the Senior Minister to define operational response to the concerns expressed by the congregation during last year's linkage activities.

Board membership fluctuated slightly this year with resignations of Scott Maves and Robert Cummings. Don Walton completed the year in the position held by both Scott and Robert.

Erin's two-year tenure as Board President ends this year. Christine Ashworth will be serving as the next President.

Review Ends and how church provides avenues for accomplishing Ends
- Philip Moos

Three Ends, or outcomes, were established by the congregation in 2012: The Board has been focusing on the AMONG end, which states that "the congregants of First Unitarian Church create a supportive, caring, accepting, celebratory community where everyone feels valued." Over the past year, the Board has provided a structure for the various established committees and groups of the church to become better acquainted and to coordinate their efforts. At the beginning of the year, these groups met to discuss priorities and coordinate the annual Activities Fair. At the end of the year, a Celebration of Service gathering was held to allow leaders of the groups to mingle and to share their accomplishments. Phil gave highlights of the group reports.

Board Reports

Overview of Congregational Linkage Results - Sue Geary

Last year, the Board used several means to solicit congregational input as to how well we are addressing the Among End. We collected responses to a Congregational Survey, Board members met with established committee and groups, and Board members were available for small-group discussions following select services. A summary of the input received revealed several clear themes or directives from the congregation: (a) continue to become a welcoming and warm community, (b) improve communication among different church groups, (c) build a structure of support for volunteerism, and (d) improve outreach to younger members and potential members. The Board addressed these goals through focused discussions at each meeting and concluded that we need a staff position for congregational life.

Knowing that our Religious Education Director, Mary Kroener-Eckstrand had decided to resign at the end of this church year, Reverend Goldsmith organized a series of focus groups of parents to look at the structure and content of RE. The outcome is a restructuring that will include three positions, a Director of Religious Education, an Assistant Director, and a Consulting Minister of Congregational Life.

Plan for 2015-2016 church year - Colleen Bliss

Search committees were formed to review applicants for both RE Director and Consulting Minister positions. After interviewing the top candidates, two well-qualified individuals were offered the positions. Julie Miller will serve in the part-time position as RE Director, with primary responsibility for programs for youth (infant through 6th grade). Julie is an experienced educator who was a principal for Salt Lake City School District and is familiar to many of our youth.

Matthew Cockrum was selected to serve as Consulting Minister for Congregational Life. Reverend Cockrum has most recently served as consulting minister in Seattle. Prior to that, he served as minister for the UU church in Ogden. Matthew will work with youth from 7th through 12th grade and will help newcomers integrate into the life of the church. He will evaluate the role of Minister of Congregational Life to determine its value to our church. Rev. Cockrum's contract is for two years with the option of renewal for one additional year.

Nancy Moos will continue in the part-time position as Assistant Director of Religious Education. Nancy will assume additional administrative duties and will continue to give direction to OWL, Coming of Age, and service trips.

[For additional information, see the Board President's Report in the 2015 Annual Report]

Operations Report - Reverend Tom Goldsmith

Ministry and Committees

Several church committees have advanced our AMONG ends this year, including the Caring Committee, the Family Fun Night, the Young Adult Group, and the Small Group Ministry. Reverend Goldsmith thanked the leaders and volunteers who have made such an impact through their work with these groups.

The church maintains intense involvement in social justice through the work of the Social Justice Council, the Refugee Resettlement Committee, and the Environmental Ministry. Our longtime commitment to marriage equality was rewarded by Utah legalizing same-sex marriage and passing statewide nondiscrimination laws. Tom has been intensely involved as an advocate for marriage equality and for environmental justice. This summer, he will continue as faculty for the University's Environmental Humanities Center in Montana.

We enjoyed an exciting Celebration Sunday with Carolyn McDade as our guest. The services kicked off our annual pledge drive. We are grateful to the leadership of the Pledge Committee for their work in launching our pledge campaign.

Our music program continues to provide a mark of distinction for our church. Our skilled and dedicated church staff have excelled again.

Reverend Goldsmith honored those whom we have loved and lost this year by name.

Financials

The annual financial report was included in the Annual Report booklet. Tom invited those in attendance to review the report.

[For additional information, see the Minister's Report in the 2015 Annual Report]

Congregational Business: member voting

Approval of Budget

The proposed budget for the 2015-2016 church year was included in the Annual Report. Reverend Goldsmith invited Hal Gonzales, Church Administrator, to help with any needed explanation of budget items. Julia Rossi had a question regarding the detail of the report. No

other questions or concerns were expressed. The budget was approved by a majority vote of those present.

Election of new Board members

The Nominating Committee has submitted Don Walton and Peter Esko as candidates to fill the open positions on the Board. Each candidate gave an overview of his experience and interest in serving on the Board. Both Don and Peter were elected by unanimous votes of the congregation.

Resolutions

No resolutions were submitted for consideration by the congregation this year.

Closing

Appreciation of Philip Moos for his service on the Board - Rebecca Heal

Rebecca acknowledged the many contributions that Phil has made during his two-term tenure on the Board. Phil was instrumental in helping the Board's transition to the Policy Governance model through his work in developing new policies and his vision as to how the Board could monitor compliance and progress. Phil shared his vision with his son, Nathan Moos, who developed the monitoring tool that the Board is using. We will miss Phil's energy and commitment.

Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by Sue Geary, Board Secretary