

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF MANHATTAN

ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2010, 12:15 pm

Call to Order: The annual congregational meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Manhattan was called to order at 12:15 on Sunday, April 25, 2010, at the Fellowship Building, 481 Zeandale Road, Manhattan, Kansas. Chair Brice Hobrock, presided, and the Secretary, Terri Franz, was present. By a count of voting members' signatures, a quorum was determined to be present.

Opening Words: Rev. Thea Nietfeld offered opening words focused on covenantal relationship.

Welcome and Commentary – Brice Hobrock, Chair

Brice welcomed those attending. He reiterated his motivation upon taking office in June 2010, emphasizing his focus on empowering the congregation to achieve its consensually determined goals, and described the business before the congregation at this meeting, including the appointment of elected officers for the coming fiscal year, and discussion and approval of the 2010/2011 Proposed Budget (*see attachment*), presented for congregational consideration.

Brice thanked members and friends for their hard work, financial support, and voluntary commitment over the past year, and discussed the need for all members and friends to be involved in a "Shared Ministry" model of congregational support and growth, given the limited hours available to our paid staff and leadership. He offered thanks to Reverends Michael Nelson and Thea Nietfeld, DRE Maria Snyder, Fellowship Administrator Susan Turner, and cleaning and maintenance person Troy Fisher for their work in the past year.

Brice noted the vital importance of each members and friends contributions in making UUFM a strong and effective congregation, and noted some of the many social justice and outreach projects supported by our volunteers in the past year (*see attachment*).

He summed up by again noting the huge efforts of our congregational family in creating the successful and effective Fellowship we are, and expressed his hope that everyone derived as much satisfaction as he in sharing our common ministry.

Garage Sale Report – Betty Banner, Garage Sale coordinator

Betty reported that the 2010 UUFM Garage Sale on April 23 and 24 raised \$1,375. She offered thanks to all the volunteers who helped us complete this huge annual project.

Approval of 2009 Annual Meeting minutes – The minutes of the 2009 UUFM Annual Meeting were visually displayed. Sue Turner also explained that the minutes would be available on the Fellowship's website at www.uufm.net, by clicking the "Documents" button and following the links. Motion was made to approve the minutes as read. Motion was seconded and the minutes were approved.

Slate of Board Officers – Elke Lorenz, Nominating Committee Chair

Elke, with committee members Molly McGaughey and Chris Nakamura, presented the following nominations for Executive Board Officers for fiscal year 2010/2011:

Chair: Larry Weaver (moving from chair-elect to chair)
Chair-elect: Anne Cowan (moving from member-at-large)
Past Chair/Nominating Committee Chair: Brice Hobrock (moving from chair to past chair)
Treasurer: Mark Mayfield (re-elected to 1-year term)
Secretary: Dick Beeman (continues two-year term)
Member-at-large: Jason Maseberg-Tomlinson (new two-year term)
Member-at-large: Kim Belanger (continues two-year term)

Elke called for nominations from the floor. There were none. Motion was made to close nominations. Motion was seconded and the 2010/2011 Executive Board Officer slate was approved unanimously, by show of hands.

2010 Budget and Pledge Drive – Mark Mayfield, Treasurer, and Finance Chair

Mark presented the proposed budget, which had been previously presented, discussed and approved by the Board at the March Executive Board meeting. He noted that certain expenses are fixed, such as dues, housekeeping, utilities and payroll. The payroll amount has increased about 20% over last year because of required raises, and because the DRE position will be funded for the full fiscal year. Overall, we will need an increase of about \$3000 in pledges.

Brock Dale asked about the funding of the DRE. This position is being supplemented by a Chalice Lighters grant, which will decrease in amount each year for the next 3 years, and by a Special Fund Drive that was conducted separately from the usual pledge drive. Commitments to that will continue for the next 3 years.

Mark noted that the non-fixed expenses have gone down a bit. Committees had been asked to trim their budget requests if possible.

A motion was made to accept the 2009-2010 Budget. The motion passed without vocal objection. Mark then made pledge forms for the coming year available; each of these also includes the amount still outstanding on the current pledge. He noted that the UU website had a pledging chart, giving guidelines tying pledge amounts to income.

Vision for 2010 – Brice Hobrock, Chair-Elect

Brice noted that he is replacing the former Chair-Elect, Dale Askey, at somewhat short notice due to Dale's work in Germany. Brice will use his administrative abilities to keep our organization running smoothly.

He noted that an organization must have a good sense of who it is, and where it is going. Brice has been Chair of the Long-Range Planning Committee, helping to develop a planning agenda. He said that great strides have been made over the last few years: the new minister, the new DRE, quality growth in members and religious education, improved Sunday programs featuring the Social Action committee's Helping Hands program.

He feels that we need to set priorities for the coming year, and that it is time to conduct an assessment of what programs that members feel should be emphasized. In the coming year, safety and security awareness will be covered in a series of workshops. Volunteerism will be encouraged, stressing the importance of all members participating in activities, ranging from social awareness to the annual garage sale. The team approach is very important to bring others into volunteer activities.

There is also a need for future expansion planning, in programs, and in facilities, like the parking lot and a playground.

In addition, he would like the Fellowship to continue to be a visible force for liberal religion in the community.

Other Business - Assignment of the Fellowship's votes for UUA President.

The Fellowship is assigned 3 votes in the upcoming election for UUA President, which will take place at the General Assembly.

Eric Banner gave a short presentation giving information about candidate Laurel Hallman, and then Dick Beeman did the same for candidate Peter Morales. Several people in the audience spoke, who had personal knowledge of a candidate, or an opinion. Scott Tanona moved that the votes be tallied so that one congregational vote would be assigned for approximately 15 votes. Eric Banner seconded. The final vote was 27 for Peter Morales, 10 for Laurel Hallman, and 2 abstentions. The Fellowship's votes will be 1 for Laurel Hallman and 2 for Peter Morales.

Adjournment: The annual meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Terri Franz, UUFM Executive Board Secretary