

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Manhattan (UUFM)
April 19, 2015

The annual meeting of the membership of the UUFM was held on April 19, 2015. The membership chair conducted a sign-in of members present and declared that a quorum was present and met the requirements for voting. The proposed slate of officers and budget had been published in the April 2015 newsletter, which was available to members not later than 5 April 2015.

The meeting was opened at 12:20 PM, by Kathleen Tanona, Chair. Kathleen gave thanks to the members of the Executive Board who had served during the past year. She reviewed some of the accomplishments and milestones of this year. They included development of an employee handbook, refinement of the stewardship process, improved communication with the wider community, funding to enable three members to attend the Midwest Leadership School in July and the movement toward full time ministry. She gave thanks to Rev. Michael Nelson for his support and encouragement in Fellowship growth, Sandy Nelson and the RE teachers for their programming for the children and chairs of all committees for their good work over the year. She concluded by reminding all in attendance that this is a very exciting time in the life of this congregation. She encouraged members to shift their thinking about volunteerism from thinking of it as a chore to embracing it as a way to use one's talents to support our congregation.

Next the slate of officers for the next cycle was offered by the Nominating Committee. This committee was composed of Tom Phillips, Immediate Past Chair; Jane Pelletier, Board Member at Large; and Mark Clarke, Board Member at Large. The slate of those standing for election was:

Chair Elect – Matthew Campbell

Board Secretary – Jessica Sievers

Board Member at Large – Chris Bailey

Michael Oldfather moved that the nominations be closed and a unanimous ballot be cast. The motion was seconded by ----- . This motion was passed by voice vote. The ballot for the slate of officers was then voted upon. There was no call for paper ballots and the slate was passed by voice vote.

The proposed budget for the FY 2016 was presented by Nathan Albin, Treasurer. Nathan stated that the major change in the proposed budget was a significant increase in payroll costs due to the congregational vote to see a full time minister. (n.b.- this vote was taken in Jan.2015 in an official congregational meeting) He further stated that non-pledge income expectations had been reduced. It is believed that newer members are pledging sooner so the prior non-cash contributions are seen in greater pledging. (??? Do we want this and is it accurate) Nathan also stated that the proposed budget was not a zero sum budget and this was a change to develop a more realistic budget. Trying to predict the budget is difficult. The proposed budget is \$166,537 in expenses and \$129,105 in income. The proposed deficit is \$36,426. This deficit is largely due to increased personnel costs. Nathan also stated that he was expecting a \$13,000-\$15,000 deficit in the current fiscal year.

Scott Tanona, Stewardship Chair, then discussed the plan to cover the proposed deficit. The Fellowship has been approved for a Chalice Grant this year. The amount will not be known until all the donations to that fund are made but it is expected to be in the range of \$10,000 based on past experience.

Scott noted that our fiscal projections are in-line with our past 10 year history. A graph was shown. In addition to the Chalice Grant the congregation voted in January to set aside \$70,000 from our endowment to support the increased cost of going to a full time minister. A fund drive has been being conducted to raise the final \$60,000. As of this date \$45,000 has been pledged or already donated to this fund. A total of \$140,000 is the additional salary amount expected to be required for three years of full time ministry.

Enell Foerster then encouraged all members to become Chalice Lighters. The minimum amount is \$60 per year. Enell stated that UUFM has benefited as the recipient of three or four Chalice Grants over the years.

Chair Kathleen then sought a motion to on the proposed budget. Kathy Hedge moved that the budget be approved as submitted. Chris Renner seconded. Upon the call for discussion there was none. The budget was then passed by voice vote.

Chair Kathleen then discussed the possibility of granting Rev. Michael Nelson emeritus status upon his retirement. Rev. Nelson has served the congregation for the past ten years. This would recognize and honor his service. Emeritus status also grants voting rights at the General Assembly for those so recognized. Larry Weaver moved that emeritus status be granted to Rev. Nelson upon his retirement. Sue Prey seconded the motion. There was a call for discussion but none was desired. The motion was passed by voice vote.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty A. Banner, Secretary for the Board