**The Community Church of Chapel Hill Unitarian Universalist**

**Congregational Meeting Minutes**

**June 7, 2015**

1. **Chalice Lighting & Opening Words –**Cathy Cole announced the quorum with 106 members present and called the meeting to order. Steve and Cecelia Warshaw opened the meeting with a reading and lighting the chalice.
2. **Covenant** –Cathy Cole reviewed the Congregational Covenant.
3. **Congregational Awards** – Cathy Cole presented the following awards to members of the congregation.
	1. **The Al & Ann Sawyer Within These Walls Award** – was awarded to Brad Kosiba, Chair of the Buildings & Grounds Committee for his efforts to support the ongoing needs of the church and its facilities.
	2. **The Joe & Lucy Straley Beyond These Walls Award** – was awarded to Hank Rodenburg, noting especially his commitment to the Solar Panel Project.
	3. **The Gertrude Willis Lifespan Award** – was awarded to DeeDee Lavinder for her work building community within the religious education program.
	4. **The Unsung UU Award –** was awarded to Lila Berry for her work over 18 years as the scheduler of our service greeters, encompassing over 900 services.
4. **State of the Church**
	1. **Membership & Attendance**
		1. **Membership & Associates Attendance** – current membership is 347, with 94 pledging non-members, and average Sunday worship is 210.
		2. **Religious Education** – 203 children and youth participating, and 235 adults participating in adult educational programs.
		3. **Covenant Groups** – we had 65 people participate in our Covenant Groups.
		4. **Music Program** – 67 people participating in the choirs of the church.
	2. **Stewardship Campaign** – Becky Waibel provided an update on the Stewardship Campaign, including a year over year increase in pledges of approximately 1%.
5. **Endowment Committee** – Mary Beth Powell provided an update on the Endowment Fund and Committee.
	1. **Mini-Grant Projects, Year 1**
		1. **El Centro Hispano Workers Center Project**
		2. **Engaging a Communications Consultant**
		3. **Sound Room Equipment Upgrades**
	2. **Mini-Grant Program, Year 2** – currently have $4,200 available in funding. Reviewed the process for vetting proposals. Two projects are being requested today, totally $4,200 in funding. Approval by congregation is being asked for both groups at once, rather than voting on each project individually.
		1. **Project 1** – Beginning a Sanctuary for Dialogue Project ($3,400) would provide three ministry members to participate in a train-the-trainer session to promote effective communication within the church. Discussed the purpose and targeted issues that this would address and the extent to which these issues should include global, nation issues as well as matters internal to the church and its concerns. Also discussed some of the specific line items within the budgeted request.
		2. **Project 2** – Architectural Services to plan future small building upgrades ($800), submitted by the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Funding would support evaluation and materials to support appearance and safety of the facilities of the church.

Cathy Cole called for a vote based upon the proposal by the Endowment

 for a hand vote.

 Motion carried to approve the funding requests to two opposing.

* 1. **Endowment Fund Committee** – Mary Beth Powell put forward nomination for Andy Hencke and Polly Johnson as new Endowment Fund Committee Members for 3-year terms, beginning June 2015.

Cathy Cole opened the floor for nominations from the floor. No further nominations were received.

 Cathy Cole called for the vote.

 All in favor with none opposed.

1. **Proposed Bylaws Changes** –Bill Poteat, Governance Committee, discussed the proposed changes and where the recommendations for changes originate and how recommendations are vetted by the Board.
	1. **Motion 1: Revised Board Member Elections** – revised to set the election schedule; set three year terms and clarifies policy for elections to partially unexpired terms. There were no questions.

All in favor with none opposed. Motion carries.

* 1. **Motion 2: Revised Procedures for Filling Board Vacancies** – revised to give Board discretion to fill vacancies without constraints, but only until the congregation can fill the vacancies at the next regularly scheduled elections. Discussion included how this policy would affect dissenting opinion, as well as whether the church can have special elections (yes).

Motion carried with three members opposing.

* 1. **Motion 3: Revised Procedure for Removing Trustee** – requires a two-thirds vote instead of a simple majority to remove a trustee. Discussed current membership numbers and whether this is based upon any historical precedent.

Motion carried with one opposed and two abstentions.

* 1. **Motion 4: Revised Procedures for Electing Search Committee** – revised to eliminate electing two alternate members; establishes an election schedule; requires that the Board identify at least 10 candidates prior to the election; and give the Board explicit role in providing information about candidates. Discussed language changes as well as the variation from the current policy and the process for the election via special congregational meeting by paper ballot.

Mary LeMay proposed an amendament to

Gary Giles seconded the amendment.

Motion carried with one opposed.

Motion with amendment carried with none opposed and one abstention.

* 1. **Motion 5: Clarify Language**
		1. **3.2.3 Removal from Membership Roll**
		2. **4.2 Board Responsibilities**
		3. **4.2.2 Board Authority to Bind Congregation by Contract**
		4. **5.1 Vice President, President and Past President**
		5. **6.2 Nominating Committee**
		6. **8.4 Dismissal of the Minister – Deferred**
		7. **8.4.1 Minister’s Compensation**
		8. **8.4.2 Notice by the Minister**
		9. **10 Dissolution of Assets**
		10. **11 Amendments to Bylaws**

Discussion included clarifying grammatical changes to clarify the language particularly in the use of non-gender specific pronouns. Also discussed whether the Nominating Committee should be a committee of the congregation, rather than a committee of the Board, but no amendments were proposed.

 Motion carried with one opposed and three abstentions.

1. **2015-2016 Budget** – Cathy Cole presented the fiscal year budget, which was discussed in detail at the Congregational Town Hall meeting. Next fiscal year budget includes 3% salary increase for all staff; increased funding for maintenance; increased dues to UUA (due to changes in their calculation); funding for leadership development training; and anti-racism and diversity training.
	1. **Income** – Pledges and collections, rental income and one-time funding related to endowments and reserves totaling $617,178.
	2. **Expenses** – Total expenses equal $617,178. 100% of income. Fixed and personnel costs total 95% of the budgeted expenditures.

Cathy Cole explained the process for reviewing and approving the budget. Called for a motion to affirm the budget as presented.

 John Leopold made the motion

 (Lots of names) seconded the motion.

 All in favor with none opposed or abstaining.

1. **Extinguish the Chalice & Closing Words** – Steve and Cecelia Warshaw closed the meeting with a reading, and extinguishing the chalice.