

Unity Village Chapel
Annual Meeting
March 16, 2014

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 12:20 p.m. by Vice President Drayton Riley. He introduced President Diane Wilks, who invited Rev. Erin McCabe to start the meeting with prayer.

Diane welcomed everyone and introduced the Board of Trustees. Present were Rev. Erin McCabe, Diane Wilks, Drayton Riley, Lou Elder, Paul Summers, Jean Zorn and Patrice Bryant . Absent was David O'Brien and Rev. Lynn Brown.

Diane recognized Lou and David (the out-going members of the board) for their tremendous service as great board members.

Drayton thanked everyone for bringing food, and for setting-up and cleaning-up afterwards.

Rev. Marianne announced that the certification and receiving of ballots was officially closed.

Drayton explained the voting process for: 1) voting on two By-Law amendments, 2) voting on two new Board of Trustees members, and 3) voting for the 2014-2015 congregational representative to the Nominating Team.

Vote #1.a: Drayton read the first By-Laws proposed change was read and the reasoning behind the proposed change:

Article V Meetings

Section 5:01 Annual Meetings

(Subsection) B Written Notice

Written notice stating the date, time, and place of the annual membership meeting will be mailed to all registered members at least ten (10) days before any membership meeting. ***Written notice constitutes posted mail to the last known mailing address made available to Unity Village Chapel or electronic mail (email) to the last known email address made available to Unity Village Chapel.***

This amendment to the bylaws adds language (in italics) that provides that notification of the Annual Membership Meeting can include either posted mail or email as a valid notification.

Rationale:

- Using an email delivery system is an eco-friendly practice
- Many people prefer email notification over posted mail

- Unity Village Chapel has the expertise and technology available to create and manage a registered member distribution list that can distinguish those members who have provided email addresses and those who have not.

Vote #1.b: The vote for the first By-Laws change was taken and approved by show of orange voting cards.

Drayton read the second By-Laws proposed change and the reasoning behind the proposed change:

Article VI Board of Trustees

Section 6.10 Nomination and Election

(Subsection) C Nomination Procedure The presiding officer of the annual membership meeting shall:

~~3 Call for additional nominations from the floor.~~ All nominees, ~~no matter how nominated,~~ must be pre-qualified, in accordance to Section 6.10(A), by the Secretary of the Board of Trustees at least ten (10) days prior to the annual meeting.

This amendment to the bylaws eliminates language calling for nominations from the floor at the Annual Membership Meeting.

Rationale:

- The language of this section calls for a process that is not functional. Candidates for the Board cannot both be nominated from the floor at the Annual Membership Meeting and be pre-qualified 10 days prior to the meeting.
- The process for members to submit for candidacy allows members ample time for prayer, contemplation and submission of an application for candidacy. A nomination made at the annual meeting calls into question whether such a candidate, who has not submitted themselves to this process, would be a credible choice for Board membership.
- The time needed to be allotted to certify that a nominee for candidacy, made from the floor, can be a qualified candidate would cause a significant delay in the election process at the Annual Membership Meeting.

The vote for the second By-Laws change was taken and approved by show of orange cards.

Nominating Team and Board Member Candidates

Jerry Woody, a member of the 2013-2014 Nominating Team, introduced the Nominating Team: Rev. Erin, Patricia McNinch (the Team President), Patrice Bryant (the board member), and himself (the congregational representative).

Jerry briefly explained the nominating actions that were taken by the team, and referenced the tri-fold brochures which listed the 3 candidates and the 2 By-Laws changes and which were mailed out to all registered UVC members. Jerry then introduced the three highly-qualified candidates: Linda Chappell, Denise Childs, and Ernie Wassmann. Jerry thanked all of the candidates.

Diane thanked the Nominating Team for their work and then introduced the Certification and Ballot Counting Team: Rev. Marianne Jones, Jan Campbell, Carl Lewis, Pat Wells, Michael Perrie (a ministerial student), and Dennis Ashley (a ministerial student). Diane thanked the Certification and Ballot Counting Team for their very important participation in our process.

Diane asked the Secretary, Patrice, if the slate of candidates had been certified. Patrice answered that the slate had been certified.

Vote #2: The congregation was asked to fill out their ballots to elect the two new Board of Trustee members, voting for two names on the ballots, and to put the ballots in the baskets, when the baskets came to each table. The ballots were collected. The Ballot Counting Team retired to the library to count the ballots.

Drayton thanked Joan Mellor for all of her work preparing for this meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Paul Summers presented the Treasurer's Report, saying that he is excited about today! Paul said that "we are honored by the gifts you have given UVC!" Although the board projected a shortfall for 2013, we were blessed with a surplus of over \$12, 000! Together the Board and Rev. Erin extended Rev. Erin's contract for another 3 years! Planning for 2014, the board has approved a budget of over \$350,000. It has snowed three times this year, so there have been several Sundays when our expected \$4000 to \$7000 was not met. However, we affirm abundance for 2014 and thank you all for your support of UVC.

Vote #3: Voting for the Congregational Member of the Nominating Team – Drayton oversaw this process by first explaining which congregants were not eligible for nomination to this team: staff members, current board members, spouses or family of current board members. Drayton then mentioned that it should be someone you know who is committed to being involved at UVC and that the people selected will not be eligible to run for the Board of Trustees next year. Nominations from the floor were taken and accepted for/by: Lou Elder, Ronna Gjesfeld, and Mary Barnett. These nominees then left the room and the congregation voted. Mary Barnett was elected as the Nominating Team member and Lou Elder was elected as the Alternate Nominating Team member (in the event that the member would not be able to serve).

Minister's Report

Rev. Erin presented the Minister's Report. Rev. Erin thanked everyone "for being here and for me being here." "Going on my 3rd year now, we've grown well in this community together." Rev. Erin acknowledged our amazing staff. Rev. Erin gave a brief history of how UVC separated from Unity School – how UVC went from not adequately supporting itself to being a thriving, self-supported community within just a few years. "We flourished because of you!" "Thank you for serving and making UVC a part of your life." Rev. Erin said, "This is my job and it's like Spiritual God Camp." "I feel so blessed by our music program!" Rev. Erin shared some new ideas for sacred service that will be implemented in the coming weeks, and she asked that we keep UVC in your prayers. "Thank you for allowing me to serve! What is birthing next as UVC? It lives in each of our hearts!"

President's Report

Diane presented the President's report. Diane explained some of the types of work that the board does. "We review the UVC finances every month, we create, approve, and revise the By-Laws, we create policies, such as the Inclement Weather Policy, which we put into action a few weeks ago cancelling Sunday Service in advance of the snow storm." She acknowledged Drayton for his fantastic work keeping everyone informed with Constant Contact. Diane mentioned that the board will have quarterly "Let's Talk" meetings and that the next one would be in June. "These meetings will be a way to bring the community and the board together."

Diane prefaced her announcement with the fact that the election was really close. To the one who was not elected, Diane urged the candidate to run again next year.

Diane announced the outcome of the voting, the two new board members are: Ernie Wassman and Denise Childs.

Rev. Marianne led us in closing prayer.

The meeting ended at 1:17 pm. The meeting lasted 57 minutes.