

# CUUC Fall Congregational Meeting

## November 6, 2016

**Meeting commencement:** 12:23 pm

President-Elect, Zack Hughes, said the opening words.

Chalice lighting was performed by Sandy Farlow, Vice President

Quorum was confirmed by Zack Hughes.

### **Parliamentary Process Acceptance**

President Lexie McGrane read aloud the process that was to be followed during the Congregation Meeting.

Lexie McGrane asked for a motion to accept the process as described. Motion made by congregational member Donna Bening, seconded by congregational member Barb Salvo, and passed unanimously by the congregation.

Lexie McGrane asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the previous congregational meeting. Motion made by congregational member Jodie Zoeller, seconded by congregational member Tom Brikowski, and passed unanimously by the congregation.

### **Finance & Facilities**

Dick Hildenbrand provided a high-level view of the church's year-to-date financial standing and discussed his concern that the church's income is not keeping up with its expenses. He referred to the static pledges in recent years and to the potential that the Service Auction may not raise the amount of money we had budgeted for. Dick displayed a water usage chart to illustrate the effect of the water leak under the parking lot on our expenses. After getting the leak repaired, the utility bill decreased dramatically.

The church borrowed \$102,000 dollars from its investment/unrestricted fund for repairing the roof and removing the mold, and then withdrew money from the money market account for repairs. There is a \$5,000 gap between income and expenses this year, and the Finance Committee will discuss this at its next meeting. In response to a question about the money market account, Dick explained that the money market account is for dedicated funds, and that it is policy to have money in dedicated funds accounts.

### **Religious Education**

Director of Religious Education, Kathy Smith, said that there are about 90 babies/children/youth who attend RE regularly. There are six RE classes, and she had to consolidate the middle grade classes due to an extreme shortage in teachers. She asked that people consider teaching. The RE Board did its annual visioning retreat and determined that what they do in RE aligns with the church's mission to transform lives, nourish spirits, and work for justice. She is working to make sure that the RE students and their families have the tools they need to engage with our overall themes.

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### **Membership**

Membership Coordinator, Cindy Pilcher, discussed the Faith Forward series, that its goal in the beginning is to help newcomers learn about UU and our church. A total of 25 participants, with six on average per week, finished the first 8-week module. She is seeking guest speakers and facilitators for the series. 11 people have become members since last congregational meeting.

### **Motion to Refinance (NO VOTE)**

Dick explained that the motion did not meet the notification deadline in the by-laws and that we couldn't vote on the motion to refinance but that we would discuss. He recapped that we borrowed \$102,000 from our unrestricted fund and that the congregation voted last spring and approved a \$100,000 line of credit (LOC). Dick explained that keeping record of all the lines of credit, the funds, the repayment schedules, etc. was somewhat complex, and he is concerned about passing this knowledge on successfully to subsequent treasurers/bookkeepers. Dick explained that, ultimately, we need to raise an additional \$10,000 annually. Pledges, for instance, need to increase.

Nelah McComsey and Elena Westbrook acknowledged the challenge of bookkeeping in our current financial situation, but both disagree that we should borrow an additional \$102,000 to repay our unrestricted fund. Elena is concerned by the potential consequences of this motion, if we are not able to raise an additional \$10,000 annually. They think we should consolidate all debt, but that we should not borrow \$102,000 to repay our unrestricted fund. Sam Nickols asked why we don't do capital campaigns, and Dick said we are exploring that option. Dick reminded everyone that our land is an asset, part of which we could sell.

John Crowley said that we should forgive repaying ourselves this \$102,000 from the unrestricted fund. Sandy Farlow reminded the congregation that this money was a gift from someone who had intended the money to be used for a spiritual goal. Dick pointed out that if we have another major expense, we won't have any cash assets on hand if we don't repay the unrestricted fund. A few members discussed alternatives to paying back the unrestricted fund per the motion. Out of this came a volunteer committee to explore options for repaying the unrestricted fund: John Crowley, Jodie Zoeller, Nelah McComsey, and Elena Westbrook.

### **Conclusion**

Lexie McGrane extinguished the Chalice, and Zack Hughes gave the benediction. Dick Hildenbrand made a motion, seconded by Anita Van Ouwerker, to adjourn [time not recorded].

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