

**MINUTES OF THE 66th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
UNITARIAN CHURCH IN WESTPORT JUNE 11, 2017**

Board President, Lynda Shannon, called the meeting to order at 11:40 am.

Rev. John Morehouse lit the chalice and offered a reflection.

MJ Cross, Clerk, reported over 71 voting members were checked in and the President declared a quorum present.

M Garvey moved, C Seiple seconded, approval of the meeting minutes for the 2016 Annual Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

C Onyemelukwe moved, J Turmelle seconded approval of the minutes of the May 7, 2017 Congregation Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

L Shannon presented the 15th annual Very Fine Lifetime Volunteer Service Award to Charles and Jenny Klein. They are a large part of the glue that keeps this Congregation a family. Although they were unable to be present, they received a standing ovation.

Sam Somashekar, Year Round Stewardship Committee co-chair, reported that although we did not meet the budget drive goals of \$640,00 and 300 pledges, those who pledged raised their overall commitment. This brought the dollar amount close to the goal with fewer pledges. President L Shannon thanked the committee, the Visiting Stewards, and the staff for their commitment and work.

Endowment Committee Chair Brian Lasher reported on the Endowment Committee's purpose and funds balances, and plans for next year. A copy of his presentation is in the 2017 Annual Report.

Treasurer Catherine Onyemelukwe reviewed the 2016-17 YTD Balance Sheet and P&L statement and the proposed 2017-18 Budget. Details are in the Annual Report.

A question was raised on the number of staff. Rev. Morehouse answered; there are 11 current professional staff. They are listed in the 2017 Annual Report.

T Hearne moved, R Burnham seconded, approval of the 2016-17 budget.

A question was raised on the trajectory of the budget to lessen the amount we take from reserves. Rev. Morehouse explained he bases long-term financial projections on a projection of adult and child congregants over the next three years. The Congregation count estimate is 400-450 adults, 100-125 children at the end of the next three years. Rev. Morehouse hopes to reduce the amount taken from reserves to under \$50,000 next year.

The 2016-17 budget was passed unanimously after discussion.

L Shannon, President, reported that the entire board would stay together next year as we progress toward full policy-based governance implementation. Board work next year will focus on increased collaboration and linkage to the CEO and

Congregation, and on creating a long-term sustainable budget to support programs and grounds.

L Garvey, Chair of the Covenant of Right Relations Task Force, reviewed the history of the Covenant. The Covenant describes how Congregants will treat each other, especially when we are in disagreement. Members of the Task Force read the Covenant. R Burnham moved, T Hearne seconded to approve the Covenant of Right Relations. Motion passed unanimously.

D Garskof and B Stuck, Nominating and Leadership Development Committee (NLDC) Co-Chairs, moved the election of the slate of candidates for Board of Trustees, Endowment Committee, Committee on Ministries, and NLDC. The President declared the uncontested slate elected. The elected slate is as follows:

Board of Trustees (3 year terms):

Full 3-year term – Mary-Jane Cross (2nd), Ken Vogel (1st), Carrie McEvoy (1st)

Endowment Committee (5 year term):

Full 5-year term – Anne Marie Beurle

Committee on Ministries (5 year term):

Full 5-year term – Charles Harrington

Nominating & Leadership Development Committee (2 year term):

Full 2-year term – Chuck Colletti, Monica Garrison

1-year term – L Hudson

There is one open 2-year term, which will be filled by the Board of Trustees per the Constitution.

Ratification of Proposed 2017 Constitution Changes: L Shannon moved, R Burnham seconded ratification of the Constitution as approved May 7, 2017. Motion passed unanimously without discussion.

Installation of New Board & Elected Committee Members: President L Shannon welcomed the newly elected leaders to the Elected Committees, charging them to serve the Congregation to the best of their abilities, and charging their fellow Committee members and the Congregation to support them in the work they are taking on.

Rev. Morehouse thanked the staff and volunteers for all they do. He specifically thanked Jan Braunle who has resigned from her position as Office Manager. She has served the Congregation for 18 years. Rev. Morehouse invited everyone to stop in the office to meet Diane Donohue, our new office manager.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Mary-Jane Cross,
Secretary of the Board of Trustees