Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
Special Congregational Meeting  
November 13, 2016  
Springfield, Illinois  

Unapproved Minutes

Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation board vice president Frank Kopecky called the special congregational meeting to order at 12:13 PM.

Board secretary Kim Villanueva verified that a quorum exceeding 46 members was present.

Long-Range Planning

Carol Kneedler, co-chair of the ALUUC Long-Range Planning Committee, provided an overview of the committee’s year-long effort to develop a strategic plan. More than 100 members participated in ‘cottage groups’ to help create specific goals for the congregation for the next 10 years.

On behalf of the ALUUC Long-Range Planning Committee, Carol Kneedler made the following motion:

1. The Long Range Planning Committee recommends that the Membership of ALUUC adopt these Strategic Visions as the plan for ALUUC's future.

   #1 Inreach to the congregation
   We are an inclusive, diverse Unitarian Universalist community that cares for all members and friends, with loving intent and in covenant of right relations, consistent with our welcoming and accepting beliefs and those of our denomination.

   #2 Outreach to the larger community to share our welcoming and accepting beliefs and our pursuit of social justice
   We promote and follow Unitarian Universalist beliefs and principles through the practice of an exciting, energetic and well-organized social justice, social action, and environmental mission that engages the passion of our members/friends and attracts others to join us in making the world a better place. As a UU congregation located in Illinois' seat of government, we take advantage of the opportunity to influence public policy in ways that reflect our mission. Together with other community organizations, we serve as a resource to the wider community on social justice and environmental issues.

   We offer an accepting and welcoming home so that others feel free to join us and express the fullness of their gifts and ways of being in the world.

   #3 Personal growth through enrichment programming
   We provide a provocative and exciting enrichment program for all ages through engaging and thought-provoking experiences for participants. Through these programs, we share our values with the wider central Illinois community.

   Our religious education program for children and youth is high-quality and consistently well-attended. It serves as a primary appeal for new families. Our programs educate our children and youth about other cultures, religions and ethical ways of being in the world.
#4 Meaningful, life-affirming and life-changing services
We create meaningful, life-affirming and life-changing services to educate, to provide comfort, and to celebrate life’s transitions, such as Sunday and other worship services, weddings, memorial services, and child dedications. These services, inspired by our beliefs and principles, integrate a wide variety of topics, including social justice, environmental concerns, and personal and spiritual growth.

#5 Stewardship
We are careful stewards of our physical and spiritual assets. We make wise, intentional choices about using our staff / volunteer time and talents, as well as our financial assets and property in ways that support our mission and strategic direction. We preserve and use our assets to maintain our presence for future generations of UUs in central Illinois. Our employment practices are consistent with our values of inherent worth and dignity.

2. The ALUUC Long Range Planning Committee asks Members to prioritize our Long Range Goals to identify the top priorities to be started within the next 18 months.

The motion was seconded by Jacqueline Jackson.

Delinda Chapman called the question.

The motion passed unanimously.

Carol Kneedler and LRP co-chair Debby Hagan then described the process for prioritizing the top goals for action during the next 18 months. Members were invited to vote on their priorities from a ballot listing 17 goals. The ballots will be accepted until November 20. The ALUUC board will then review the goals with the highest number of votes and determine which can be achieved first.

Frank Kopecky recessed the special meeting for five minutes so that members could vote on goal prioritization.

Storage/Flooring Expenditure
Frank Kopecky called the special meeting back to order at 12:38 PM.

Board treasurer Tina Bennett made the following motion:

In order to ease our current storage problems and to free up space which will better serve our programming needs,

And in order to properly maintain the beauty, cleanliness and functionality of our current building,

The ALUUC Board of Directors moves to recommend at the November 13, 2016 Congregational Meeting that the ALUUC congregation approve an expenditure of up to $60,000 from the available cash reserves to build a secure storage garage and to replace our badly worn carpet with new flooring.

The motion was seconded by Bonnie Ettinger.
Discussion ensued for and against the motion.

On a request by Susan Solon, the motion was divided into two separate motions: “The ALUUC congregation approves an expenditure of up to $30,000 from the available cash reserves to build a secure storage garage” and “The ALUUC congregation approves an expenditure of up to $30,000 from the available cash reserves to replace our badly worn carpet with new flooring”.

Stu Jacobson moved, seconded by Delinda Chapman, to postpone consideration of both motions for four months. The motion failed.

Tracy McCaffey moved, seconded by Delinda Chapman, to amend both motions to include the use of union labor. The amendment failed 24-27.

Bonnie Ettinger called the question.

The motion “The ALUUC congregation approves an expenditure of up to $30,000 from the available cash reserves to build a secure storage garage” passed.

The motion “The ALUUC congregation approves an expenditure of up to $30,000 from the available cash reserves to replace our badly worn carpet with new flooring” passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Kim Villanueva
ALUUC Board Secretary