A quorum membership of 48 was counted and confirmed present.

The meeting was called to order by Mike Haynes at 12:10 pm.

Microphones were made available to the presenters and to the audience respondents. Handouts were made available to the audience membership including the meeting agenda; Treasurer’s Report; Annual Report of the Endowment Committee; Proposed ALUUC Budget; and Annual Report of the Program Committee. Officers of the Board including Mike Haynes (President), Gwen Childs (Vice President), Victoria Vincent (Treasurer), Carol Floyd (Secretary), and also Reverend Martin Woulfe were present on the panel addressing the membership.

**Motion: a move was made and seconded to approve the minutes from last year’s annual (6/17/07) meeting and from the special meeting regarding extension of the parking lot (11/18/07). The motion was passed by acclamation.**

**Reports**

- **President’s Report (Mike Haynes)**

Among the things we accomplished this year are

--hiring for the newly upgraded position of office manager

--extending the parking lot

--adding the hearing assist system

--completing the internal audit of the previous year including suggestions for future improvements

--successful fundraising for the playground and piano projects

The board and the congregation were thanked for everything that had been accomplished in the past year.
Highlights of experience over the last year were covered very quickly with intention to post the complete 9 page report on the internet.

--completion of 5 years as settled minister

--major efforts by Mike, the Board, Committee on Ministry and congregational volunteers. Activity was energizing

--first wedding officiant completed training with 4 more in process

--many ministerial activities in UUA district, local religious community, and civic groups

--continuing heavy requirements for pastoral care

--outreach to the University of Illinois Springfield campus

--many people joined the congregation but also significant outflow because of individual relocations outside of the geographic area

--half of the congregation has been a member for 1-5 years. Challenges will be continuing to make these individuals feel at home and integrate them more fully into the life of the church including pledging the resources necessary to sustain the church.

Activities of past year and what is planned for next year

--successful fundraising for the playground

--holiday pageant both years

--RE Coordinator will attend Our Whole Lives sexuality education training to broaden the program to include adults

--planned expansion of adult RE

--youth partnering with adults on Green activities
• **Treasurer’s Report (Victoria Vincent)**

Gifts received this year exceeded $35,000 and made possible improvements to both the building and the grounds. As of April 30, 2008 we were approximately where we should be relative to collecting operating revenue for the fiscal year with three significant exceptions noted. Thanks were given to Jeff and Tina Bennett for their significant financial contribution.

Expenses. We have paid our dues to the UUA and CMwD in full thus getting back in full standing and preserving our UUA preferential mortgage rate on the building. Our mortgage payments are up-to-date on loans that will be paid off in 2015 and 2020. As the building ages, repair costs will significantly increase in future years.

Net assets: 87% of cash is designated or restricted in use.

Conclusion. It is difficult to anticipate where we will end the year

• **Endowment Committee Report (Carol Floyd on behalf of Dave Braddock)**

The endowment is meant for longer term purposes and is handled separately from annual operating funds. Investments at the year’s beginning were approximately $48,298 increasing to the sum of approximately $66,660 a few days ago. During the past 12 months there have been $16,157 in additions deposited (money from the Ruth Heckathorn estate and other gifts) with no withdrawals made. This means the account made $2205 in earnings since the last congregational meeting inspite of a difficult investment environment.

• **Budget Adoption (Victoria Vincent)**

Mike Haynes introduced the item but turned to Victoria Vincent for presentation. Victoria drew everyone’s attention to the written FY 09 budget proposal and then used large charts upfront to lead people through a presentation. The total of the budget presented is $175,635 the figure given for both revenues and expenses. The presentation went through the revenue detail orally showing where the revenue estimate was high and the reasons it would be considered overly optimistic: pledges, fundraising, and interest. The revenue estimate is overly optimistic by about $15,000 based on information currently available.

The church expenses are almost entirely fixed: Fair share level UUA dues (also necessary to maintain low mortgage rate), mortgage, salaries. The ministerial package includes, salary, and fringe benefits, and professional expenses in a single sum.
The $175,635 level eliminates all janitorial service, employee raises, all special maintenance on the building, and a large portion of the program and music budget. Approximately $15,000 beyond that would be necessary to restore these items to the budget. The downsides of these exclusions were reviewed.

Exchanges (Question posed to Victoria /Response from Victoria) on subject of what we could do to increase the revenue we take in

Q Could we do a third fundraiser?    R—People who have done fundraising this year do not think that is feasible and definitely are not themselves willing to do a third fundraiser.

Q Are we talking about two different $15,000 amounts?  R—Yes. The 175K budget is about $15,000 high relative to the relatively firm 160K revenue number and we need an additional $15,000 beyond the $175K figure presented for approval today if we are to have a genuinely livable budget.

Q Lets talk about this more in concrete terms. Would getting everyone to increase the pledge they made in April or May by $4 to $6 week be sufficient to solve the problem?  R—Yes, that kind of increase would do much of it but we also need to get pledges from the people who have not pledged to date.

Q What are the differences between designated and restricted funds.  R-- A donor restricts a contribution to a specific purpose; the Board cannot change a restriction. The Board designates and that designation is subject to change. There is a reserve fund containing about 2 ½ months of expenses that is meant for emergencies.

Q How about other fund raising possibilities including a Miracle Sunday?  .A—Yes, a number of possibilities should be talked about further as we continue to work out our revenue problem but we cannot discuss them all in detail this afternoon.

Motion: the motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed budget of $175, 635. The motion passed by acclamation.

- **Expenditure Authorization for Playground Equipment**

The following resolution was read

ALUUC Playground

WHEREAS, The Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation (ALUUC) of Springfield, Illinois authorized at its Annual Meeting in 2007 the conduct of special fundraising
to raise funds for major playground improvements on the existing site @ 745 Woodside Road, Springfield; and

WHEREAS, the ALUUC pledged to match, dollar for dollar, donations made in this fiscal year by members and friends, up to the amount of $10,000, for this purpose; and whereas donations to the Playground Fund have been received; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the ALUUC hereby authorizes the expenditure of the Playground Fund donations and up to $10,000 from the Special Projects Fund to match the amount of Playground Fund donations received, for the design, equipment, supplies, and installation necessary to complete this project; and be it further

RESOLVED that all obligation of funds for this project shall be approved by the President and Treasurer of the ALUUC to ensure that all related expenditures are made in accordance with this resolution.

Background on the resolution was given. Victoria noted that the fund drive had raised the full $10,000 and therefore qualified for the full congregational match. Phillip Anderson summarized the sub amounts of the expenditure including for ground cover and the toddler area. He also said he would be organizing people to do the “build.” In response to a question, he noted the preliminary information he had relating to liability and to insuring the structure itself.

Motion: the motion was made and seconded to approve the playground expenditure as provided in the resolution. The motion passed by acclamation.

- **Expenditure Authorization for Piano**

RESOLUTION

The following resolution was read

**ALUUC Piano**

WHEREAS, The Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation (ALUUC) of Springfield, Illinois authorized at its Annual Meeting in 2007 the conduct of special fundraising to raise funds for a new Grand Piano for our Sanctuary at 745 Woodside Road, Springfield; and
WHEREAS, the ALUUC pledged to match, dollar for dollar, donations made by members and friends, up to the amount of $10,000, for this purpose; and whereas donations to the Piano Fund have been received; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the ALUUC hereby authorizes the expenditure of $10,000 from the Special Projects Fund to match $10,000 of Piano Fund donations received, and to authorize the expenditure of Piano Fund Donations needed for the purchase of a Grand Piano to be chosen by our pianist, Bonnie Ettinger; and be it further

RESOLVED that all obligation of funds for this project shall be approved by the President and Treasurer of the ALUUC to ensure that all related expenditures are made in accordance with this resolution.

Bonnie Ettinger summarized the process by which the piano had been selected, the date of delivery, moving the old piano to RE, and her personal purchase of the piano that had been donated to the church by Helen McGranahan. Bonnie will be pleased to do fundraising for the church using the resource of the new piano.

Motion: the motion was made and seconded to approve the piano expenditure as provided in the resolution. The motion passed by acclamation.

- **Election of Officers – Nominating Committee Report (Berkley Moore)**

The Nominating Committee presented its nominations of four individuals to serve in the officer positions for a term of one year;

President          Gwen Childs
Vice President      Delinda Chapman
Secretary           Carol Floyd
Treasurer           Victoria Vincent

Three individuals to serve in as at-large board members for two year terms

Bill McCall; Kitty Wrigley; and Phillip Anderson

At large board member for one year term: Mark Hanson

Nominating Committee for three year terms: Buffy Lael and Dianne Roberts-Hill
Endowment Trust for six year terms  John Glosser and Carol Floyd

Motion: a motion was made and seconded for the entire slate of candidates to be elected. The motion was passed by acclamation.

New Business

Victoria noted there would be signup sheets for cleaning the church. In response to the possibility that an additional contribution could be made in lieu of cleaning duty, Victoria noted that to effectively get the church cleaned using that approach, plenty of upfront contributions would be needed to assure continuity of the janitorial service now providing coverage.

Gwen Childs, as outgoing Vice President, presented a plant to the outgoing President Mike Haynes (and also Linda Haynes) on behalf of 2007-2008 Board members to recognize his leadership this year. Mike Haynes thanked the Board for the gift.

Motion: a motion was made and seconded for adjournment. The motion passed by acclamation.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 pm