

Draft
Minutes
Annual Meeting
Membership of Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalists Congregation
June 8, 2014

Sixty eight members attended, which comprises a quorum of ALUUC membership according to ALUUC bylaws.

In addition to hard copies of the meeting agenda, the Fiscal Year 2015 Proposed Budget & Narrative, and the ALUUC Congregational Covenant of Right Relations, hard copies of the following ALUUC annual reports for 2013-2014 were available:

Committee on Ministry Report
Facilities Committee Report
Flower Committee Report
Green Sanctuary Report
Intern Minister's Report
Membership Committee Report
Minister's Report
Personnel Committee Report
Religious Education Report
Treasurer's Report

President Michael Plog convened the meeting at 11:59 AM.

Reports

Minister's Annual Report

The Rev. Martin Woulfe summarized his written report. Major points of his past year activities include:

- Preaching 25 regular Sundays
- Promoting to Chief of Staff which means supervising all staff
- Engaging in leadership and support roles in efforts to promote passage of the Defense of Marriage Act.
- Mediating conflicts between congregational members. Since 2003, 90 such conflicts have been mediated. In most cases, conflicts between members are deliberately kept at a low profile. On occasion, the Board President is also engaged in the mediation and in a few instances, the dispute is referred to the Committee on Ministry. One such occasion occurred this past year. Mediating disputes takes a significant amount of time.

Board President Annual Report

President Michael Plog gave his verbal annual report with a summation of the church's accomplishments during the last year. These accomplishments include the creation and installation of a memorial wall, a new roof, posting of sermons on U-tube, the first annual Gupta reward for essays on the contribution of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi, the increased participation of the choir, the work of the Personnel Committee which reviewed and updated the roles of employees, revision of the structure of committees, the support of an intern minister, leadership role in the passage of the Marriage Equality Act, the revitalization of a Springfield chapter of PFLAG, work on food security and social justice, and the hosting of OWL training for the central region.

In a look to the future, President Plog reported that the Bloomington UU congregation has requested that ALUUC co-host with them the Mid-American Youth Con, the anticipated installation of solar panels on the church building, and the restart of the "Welcoming Congregation" initiative. A challenge is a look at ways to integrate new members into the congregation. In all, this is a year of which to be proud.

Intern Annual Report

Intern Paul Oakley expressed his gratitude for the congregation's love and support over the past ten months. He summarized his written annual report. Major points included:

- Planning, coordinating and leading multiple worship services
- Providing pastoral care and officiating at rites of passage
- Leading adult education classes
- Witnessing to social justice in the public square.

Appointments

According to the ALUUC Bylaws a Committee on Ministry shall be appointed by the Nominating Committee with the advice and consent of the minister and the board and announced at the annual meeting. The president announced the following new appointments by the Nominating Committee to the Committee on Ministry

Jack Kriel (1 year)

Dianne Roberts

John Malan (3 years)

George Metcalf (3 years)

Election of officers, directors, committee members and trustees

The Nominating Committee made the following nominations for open positions on the Board of Directors, Nominating Committee and Endowment Trust:

Officers of the Board of Directors:

President: Michael Plog (2015)
Vice President: Kent Childs (2015)
Secretary: Linda Quigley (2015)
Treasurer: Dianne Roberts (2015)

Board of Directors Members:

Marissa DeWeese (2016)
Debby Leahy (2016)
Art Meyer (2016)

Nominating Committee

Debbie Hagan (2016)
Amanda Metcalf (2016)

Endowment Trust

Roger Powers (2020)

No nominations were made from the floor. The question to accept the Nominating Committee's slate of candidates was called. ALUUC members present approved the nominating committee's slate of candidates with no opposition.

Proposed Budget For Fiscal Year 2015

Finance Committee Chair Kurt DeWeese presented a proposed budget for fiscal year 2015, summarizing his written report. The budget is optimistic about revenue. All the pledges are not yet in, but there may be a \$10,000 shortfall.

Budged increased expenses over FY 2014

- 5% pay increase to staff and a 3% increase to the minister. There have been no pay raises in the past????? year.
- \$7,000 to cover the cost of pastoral care and sermons during the minister's sabbatical from January through June 2015. The cost could be more if travel is included.
- \$1,750 for audit review. In the past, this has been provided by a volunteer. The extensive work this review entails makes volunteer work no longer feasible.
- \$1,000 for computer technical support. In the past, this has been provided by volunteers in their spare time. A contract for outside support is advised so that support is available when needed.
- Increase in cost of utilities. Utilities costs last year was more than expected because of the cold winter and the increase in the price of propane.
- \$400 allowance for advertising as recommended by the Membership Coordinator
- An adjustment for inflation.

Anticipated revenue

- Members who pledged last year pledged this year
- The budget assumes \$185,035 in pledges. Presently we have \$172,000 in pledges but not all pledges are in. The pledge amount has to be discounted somewhat, because not all pledges are paid in full due to members moving, dying or having a change in economic situation. However, a high percentage of pledges were paid last year.
- There were no new pledges. There may have been contributions, but these are not tracked.
- Many members do not pledge for a variety of reasons including the lack of capacity to pledge and dislike of the church asking for money.
- Pledges range from \$20,000/year to \$20.00/year. A small number of members provide a high percentage of financing.
- Plate and other contributions are down.
- The budget assumes \$16,000 from fundraising—primarily the Trash and Treasure Sale and the Fantasy Auction. A small group of volunteers has provided an immense amount of work in order to hold these two fund raising events. Burn-out of members is possible so some members recommend that the congregation no longer depend upon these two events to provide funds for the church. The Trash and Treasure sale does provide funds from outside the church. The Fantasy Auction primarily taps church members.
- Usually, the budget does not tap investment income. This budget proposes to cash in capital gains on some investments in order to cover costs while the minister is on sabbatical.
- If all 218 member of the church pledged an additional dollar week, \$11,336 could be raised. If the 93 pledge units (families) pledged an additional \$10/month then \$11,160 could be raised. If 50 members pledged an additional \$5/week \$13,000 could be raised which would make up for the shortfall.

Treasurer Victoria Vincent recommended that the budget not be accepted but be sent back to the board for recommendations on ways to cut the budget. She estimates a \$30,000 shortfall.

- She estimates a higher number of members will not fill their pledge.
- She objects to capital gains being used to pay for normal expenses, because these are part of reserves for major expenses such as a new furnace if the furnace fails.
- \$2,000 in past pledges listed in the budget is not real money but paying past obligations.

There was much discussion on these two proposals. A motion was made to accept the budget as presented by the finance committee. The motion was seconded. The motion passed with 30 for and 22 against.

Delinda Chapman pledged to increase her pledge by \$5.00 a week and urged others to do likewise.

New Business.

- The UUA meeting will be held June 5-29. ALUUC can have five voting delegates (in addition to the minister) so if anyone is interested, please contact the minister.
- There was a motion to accept the minutes of the 2013 annual meeting. The motion was seconded and passed without objection.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted

**Virginia Forrer
Acting secretary**