

Unity Village Chapel Annual Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 12 noon by Board of Trustees President, Drayton Riley. Reverend Erin McCabe started the meeting with prayer.

Drayton introduced the current UVC Board of Trustees (BOT), the office on the BOT that each held this past year and announced when the term of each would expire (Drayton mentioned that his term expires in 2016): Rev. Erin McCabe, Lead Minister; Ernie Wassmann (2017), Vice President; Paul Summers (2015) and Denise Childs (2017), Co-Treasurers; Patrice Bryant (2015), Secretary; Diane Wilks (2016), and Jean Zorn (2016). Rev. Lynne Brown, the BOT member representing Unity, was absent. Drayton mentioned that Paul and Patrice were the two members whose tenure on the board would end when the two new BOT members were announced. Drayton recognized and thanked Paul and Patrice for their exemplary service to UVC as BOT members.

Nominating Team and Board Member Candidates

Drayton reviewed the duties of the Nominating Team and introduced the members of this year's Nominating Team: Mary Barnett, elected member from the congregation; Diane Wilks, UVC Board member; Rev. Erin, as Lead Minister; and John Fry, selected by the other members of the team. John served as Chairman of the team.

Diane Wilks introduced the BOT nominees for this year, each of whom came forward: Linda Rae Chappell, Janet Galvin, Ronna Gjesfjeld, Anna Griesbach, Jan Marie Sajna, and Larry Smith. Diane thanked them all for volunteering to serve UVC in this capacity.

Voting Procedures

Drayton read the voting procedures as stated in the UVC By-Laws. Drayton asked John Fry, as President of the Nominating Team, if the candidates met the requirements stated in the UVC By-Laws. John responded, "Yes!" Drayton read the Census Recertification procedures as stated in the UVC By-Laws. Drayton asked Patrice Bryant, as Secretary, if the list of UVC congregational members had been certified as stated in the UVC By-Laws. Patrice responded, "Yes!"

Proposed By-Laws Amendments

Drayton read the proposed UVC By-Laws Amendments, which if approved would change three subsections of the by-laws. In the language below, the relevant subsections are provided with the proposed changes in parenthesis and italics:

Article IV – Membership, Section 4.02 Certification of Membership (subsection) B In two-year **(three year)** intervals the Board Secretary shall re-certify the membership by conducting a

census of the congregation for the purposes of establishing a credible list of registered members...

Article VI – Board of Trustees Section 6.09 Duties and Responsibilities of the Board of Trustees (Subsection) O In two-year **(three-year)** intervals, the Board Secretary shall re-certify the membership by conducting a census of the congregation...

Article VI – Board of Trustees Section 6.15 Duties of Officers C Secretary The Secretary will: (Subsection) 5 Conduct a census of the congregation in two-year **(three-year)** intervals for the purposed of re-certifying registered membership as outlined in Section 4.02(B).

Drayton explained that the purpose of the membership census is to assure that a reliable list of certified members exists. Such a list provides that those congregants who are qualified as members are the ones who vote and who can be considered for candidacy for the Board of Trustees. The BOT is confident that a three year interval: 1) does not adversely affect the integrity of the membership voting at the annual membership meetings or at any special membership meeting, and 2) would allow the Board more time to attend to other important business, such as strategic planning, training and financial oversight.

Voting Procedures

Drayton explained the voting procedures. Members were reminded to vote for two candidates for the BOT. Members wishing to approve the amendments are to put a check mark next the amendment changes on the ballot sheet. Members wishing not to approve the amendments are to leave the box blank next to the amendment changes on the ballot sheet.

The membership had time to fill out their secret ballot sheets, and these were collected in baskets by volunteers and given to the ballot counters, who had moved into the library in order to count the ballots.

Minutes from 2014 Annual Meeting

Patrice Bryant read the minutes from the March 16, 2014 Annual Meeting, then asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes as read. A motion was made to approve the minutes as read, the motion was seconded and approved by the membership in attendance.

Treasurer's Report

For the Treasurer's Report, Paul reported that the closing balance for 2014 was \$28,534 in the General Checking Account, and the Money Market Account closing balance was \$100,559.92. \$295,649 was the total received as Offering income. \$304,377 was the total Expense amount for 2014. The net balance for 2014 was -\$8,728.

Paul mentioned that although these figures show great involvement on the part of the congregation, it would help UVC if congregants would establish continued giving, perhaps utilizing on-line banking payments which may be set up through the office or Pay Pal through

the UVC web site, so that UVC could continue to meet its obligations even when you are out of town.

Paul said that at his first board meeting there was no minister. Two days after the meeting, Paul was given an assignment to pray, and Paul read a very inspirational poem by James Dillet Freeman, entitled "Blessing for the Church." Paul liked the prayer so much, that he read it, and it is included below:

Blessing for the Church

This is God's House.

May all who come here, not only find out about God,
But find God. May there be beauty in this place, but
Especially may it be a place where men and women
Become aware of the beauty of themselves.

May this be a place of Worship. May this be a place
Of instruction. May this be a place of singing.
May this be a place of prayer.

But for us who worship and take instruction and sing
And pray, may this always be a place of inner stillness,
Where we may listen and hear when God speaks.

May whoever ministers here minister in love. May
Whoever teaches here teach truth. May whoever
Serves here serve pleasantly.

May everyone come into this house in expectation and
Go with thanksgiving, and may everyone who comes
Needing help go feeling blessed.

May this be such a house that Jesus Christ – or any stranger,
Even one of the least – would feel in it that he was with
Friends.

Paul asked if there was a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's Report, as read, and the motion was seconded and approved.

Election of Congregational Nominating Team Member

Drayton announced that it was time to elect the congregational member to the Nominating Team and an Alternate Nominating Team member to serve if the occasion arises that the Nominating Team member cannot serve. He explained who is not eligible to serve in this capacity and mentioned that it is acceptable to nominate one's self. Drayton also mentioned that no explanation is necessary when a nomination is made, accepted, or rejected. The following people were nominated and accepted the nominations: Paul Summers, Debbie Shenk, Kathy Peery, and Michael Kinslow. A motion was made to close the nominations. The person who collects the first and second highest number of votes will serve as member and alternate. The candidates left the room. The votes were taken by show of orange cards. The candidates were asked to return. Drayton announced that Paul Summers is the Nominating Team member and Debbie Shenk is the Alternate Nominating Team member. Drayton thanked Kathy and Michael for their willingness to serve.

Minister's Report

Rev. Erin gave the Minister's Report. She first thanked all the members present for their time and for being here. Rev. Erin said, "You have a great Board of Trustees! I have been fortunate for having a great BOT and to be able to work with such great leaders!" Rev. Erin then thanked all volunteers for stepping forward, "Your service makes a huge difference!" She said it was an honor to serve with the UVC Staff, "They are grounded and rooted in Principle, committed, and self-motivated!" Rev. Erin then introduced each of the staff members: Joan Mellor, Office Administrator, who was absent; Mary Ellen Davis, Interim Youth and Family Ministry Director; Rev. Marianne Jones, Pastoral Services Minister; and Vicky Berry, the new Director of Communications. Rev. Erin thanked and introduced the Youth and Family Ministry Team: Mary Ellen, Jason, Christina, Larry, and Glenda. Rev. Erin had everyone who serves during Sunday Services stand and she thanked them, "You all show up consistently - you make coffee, greet, usher, steward our offerings, prepare hospitality – it becomes your ministry and you treat it as if you were paid! Thank you all!" Then Rev. Erin asked everyone else who serves UVC in any way to stand – Sisters of Myrtle, Men of Unity, Artists, and volunteers in any capacity, "Thank you all!" Rev. Erin mentioned that she was looking at the music program and finances, and said that all of our Sunday Singers and our In-house Musicians are so committed and all have an abundance consciousness. Regarding our income and expenses, "Pray on it! And thank the Board of Trustees for having an abundance consciousness! Thank you all!"

Rev. Erin shifted the Volunteer Breakfast to April 18 – and away from the too busy Christmas season. "Save the date!" Over 30 new members have joined our congregation this year, some of whom have jumped onto teams already! More people are sharing the work – there are many more volunteers this year, "Kudos to those who have stepped up!" There are 2 new teams – the Social Action Ministry (SAM) who collected fans during the summer and winter coats during the winter this year; and the Welcome Team, which will be helping people integrate into the Community. There will be a new Welcome table set up in the lobby on

Sundays, the Welcome Team will pass out the Welcome Packets, and this team will talk with the new folks. "Thank you everyone on these two new teams!"

Rev. Erin said a thanks goes out to Lane, an employee of Unity, who manages the sound for our Sunday Services, went above and beyond in helping UVC out, by suggesting that Unity replace the curtains of the Sanctuary and repaint the stage ceiling and Unity did place this on their maintenance schedule. "Thank you, Lane!"

Rev. Erin said that the Live Stream was upgraded this year. There are also now a few Spiritual Communities who watch our Live Stream Sunday Service as part of their services: Unity of Manhattan, Unity of St. Croix, and a Unity church in Illinois. There are 70 to 100 live streamers on-line every Sunday.

UVC received a donation for a new movie projector for our summer movie series. We will soon be upgrading the library. The Art Gallery Openings were new this year, thanks to Paul McMillan.

"Kudos to everyone who participated in the St. Patrick's Day parade. Thank you!"

There is a blue book on the table in the Community Center that shows the groups that UVC gives tithes to, including: Silent Unity, Unity, AGNT, Don Boscoe Center, Live Light, ReStart, Hope House and others.

Rev. Erin said that this year we restructured the staff and ministry teams so each staff person is in charge of specific teams. The 4-hour per week position of Volunteer Coordinator was changed to a Communications Director position, which was filled by Vicky Berry. In addition to sending out the Constant Contact messages and other communications duties, Vicky volunteers her time to edit the Sunday Services for archival.

The Village MIC on the first Thursday of each month has been such a success!

On each table is a sheet of 7 ways one may Support and Celebrate UVC. Rev. Erin highlighted one item from each of the seven areas, and concluded with the final suggestion, to: "Let affirmations power our conversations!"

"God bless you! Thank you for standing in your power together with UVC!"

President's Report

For the President's Report, Drayton reported that the BOT participated in one and a half days of board training with Susan Beck, a noted Unity board trainer. "Getting our house in order" was what the board concentrated on this year, revising BOT roles, and running more efficient board meetings. For next year, the BOT intends to work on strategic thinking. The BOT is creating an alternative form of membership for our on-line congregants. 230 members have re-certified in this year's census, 72% of whom re-certified on-line. "That's efficient!" Re-certifying on-line saves time and money. Less than 40 annual meeting notices had to be sent by mail this year.

If you want to receive UVC correspondence via email, please sign up on the UVC website <http://www.unityvillagechapel.org/>

For the coming year, Drayton would like us to look at elevating our game next year, “We are magnetic – attracting other people to UVC! Decisions you’ve made in the past are all built on something that is possible. So let’s all elevate our game, for its own sake – because it is the thing to do!” If you’re feeling maxed out – think of the Royals last year – they didn’t know how it would turn out, but they elevated their game! If you’re on the field – don’t sit on the bench! If you’re on the field and not sweaty – start sweating! If you’re already on the field and sweating – keep it up and pull someone off the bench to help!”

Drayton related the story of when he first got married and came to Unity Village Chapel. He thought we were a little weird at first, but he stuck with it! Now Drayton says that UVC has brought him some of the best moments in his life. “This has been a magnanimous and amazing year!”

Voting Results

Drayton announced that the proposed amendments were approved and the two new board members as a result of the voting were: Linda Chappell and Larry Smith. “Congratulations to you both!” Then Drayton said to the other 4 who were not elected to the BOT for this year – Janet, Anna, Ronna, and Jan Marie – “We appreciate you! We need you! I will be calling you next week! Thank you all for running this year!”

Rev. Marianne Jones led us in prayer to close the meeting. She ended saying, “UVC is a consciousness! We are a light!”

The meeting closed at 1:22 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Patrice Bryant
Former UVC BOT Secretary