

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Corporation  
The Unitarian Church in Charleston  
May 15, 2011

Sally Newell, Vestry Chair, called the meeting to order.

Danny Reed gave Opening Words

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1. Trip Banner presented the Corporate Meeting Minutes (May 2010) for the previous year and minutes from 2 special meetings held during the church year.
  - Annual meeting
  - Congregational meeting in January to call Danny Reed as Minister
  - April meeting for Constitutional questionMinutes were posted on the website  
The motion carried unanimously by voice vote to accept these minutes, Susan Hartry moved and Cecil Bennett seconded the motion.

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2. The Minister's report was submitted to the members:  
A Full report can be found on line.  
Frank Palmer, sexton will be stepping down  
Janet Watts will work full-time  
We will be honoring Frank Palmer's retirement on June 5th and an invitation will be extended to contribute to a financial gift in his honor helping him to launch into retirement.  
We acknowledge the loss of one of our members: Joseph Palmer Shisko

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3. The Vestry Chair's report was submitted with key highlights noted by Sally Newell:
  - Our new minister, Danny Reed, was Called to serve our church
  - Access to Gage Hall was completed meeting ADA guidelines
  - There was extraordinary leadership and response for the annual pledge drive with a new record this year for pledges
  - Other progress this year includes:
    - o we are growing in numbers and service within the church with a large numbers of new members
    - o Coffee houses were very successful
    - o We participated in the Charleston Pride March
    - o There were several new RE activities including a trip of 5 teens with Janet Watts RE Director to GA, Peacemaker Camp

She stated that the energy and excitement for the year had been extraordinary, and she thought there are 2 reasons for this:

- Those who come to corporate meetings, those who plan activities, those who say yes to leadership & you who support the church financially
- Second reason is our minister, Danny Reed – who he is, what he stands for and how he carries out his ministry has made all the difference (applause)

4. Elections for 3 committees and positions on them:

- Paul Garbarini, Chair of Nominating Committee stated that the Committee seeks input from individuals, the Vestry and Committees for members who would serve best on the Vestry. There is a 3 year rotation for the Vestry  
**Nominees** for the Vestry are:  
Hillary Hutchinson, Myrtle Staples & Carol Tempel
- Endowment Investment Board  
**Nominees** are: Stan Goldberg & Richard Hayes

Sally asked for nominations from floor for the Vestry and there were none.  
The Nominations carried by unanimous vote for these new Vestry Members

Sally asked for nominations from the floor for the EIB and there were none.  
Nominations carried by unanimous vote for the EIB.

Carol Furtwangler and Chris Sumpter will be rotating off of the Nominating Committee.

The Vestry has nominated these candidates for the Nominating Committee based on their wide variety of experience:

Will Moredock & Mary Ann Terry

Sally asked for nominations from floor for the Nominating Committee and there were none.

The Nominations carried by unanimous voice vote for these new Nominating Committee Members

Mark Farnham, Vestry Member thanks  
two outgoing EIB members,  
JaneUpshur, Kay Haun

Mark Farnham also recognized the contributions of outgoing Vestry Members:

Richard Hayes, Charlie Miller & Sally Newell

New items of business brought by church committees, no seconds required

5. Sally Newell introduced: The Mission Statement

A Survey with 60 responses was conducted

An All-day workshop was held

Sally requested a yes or no vote for this new Mission Statement rather than to suggest revisions.

Alex Hild, Chair on Committee for Shared Ministry presented the proposed Mission Statement

***“Building a welcoming home for spiritual freedom that enriches our lives and serves our world”***

Alex referenced the UUA on-line mission statement guideline document

This Mission Statement will help us to focus our programs, activities, and finances to fulfill our vision.

The statement follows the guidelines of the UUA

Alex thanked the members of committee contributing to building the Mission Statement

Sally Newell: Called for discussion about this new Mission Statement

- There was a request to hear the statement one more time from Lisa Hajjar
- No discussion

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote to accept the Mission Statement.

Sally Newell honored and thanked Lisa Hajjar for her leadership for heading up the auction, netting almost \$18,000. Sally also recognized and thanked the Stewardship Co-campaign chairs, Amy Ball and Karen Abrams.

6. Budget for the 2011/2012 Church Year

- Sally Newell introduced this new proposed budget
- Ellie Setser presented the highlights of the key line items;
  - o same budget that we received at start of pledge campaign, because the whole amount of the target in the Stewardship Campaign was raised
  - o raise minister's salary
  - o 5% raise to Music Director
  - o Sexton 5% increase
  - o Administrator 5% increase
  - o DRE to full- time from part-time

Salary details are generally not published but can be obtained from Ellie

Call for discussion by Sally:

- o Cecil Bennett asked – what is the total \$\$ pledged?
    - \$285,000 collected, discounted by 5% to put into the budget.
- This is unusual; most congregations discount 10%

The Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to accept the new 2011/2012 Church Budget.

7. Charlie Miller , Chair of the Accessibility Adhoc Committee – The Vestry formed this adhoc committee 2 years ago. The committee originally had no budget. Charlie listed some of the major successes in the past year, including grab bars and hand rails, and the most significant ramp access to the front of Gage Hall. The biggest challenge was to gain accessibility access to the sanctuary. Glenn Keyes has developed concept plans, and the committee is submitting one of these plans for approval today. Susan Conant suggested this plan of going through the side wall of the vestibule and entering into the Library (Green RM). The estimate from a contractor and Glenn Keyes for the project is \$65,000. Charlie presented a large format drawing of the plan (Option #1) and explained how this entrance would work. The ramp has the slope required for ADA guidelines. Stan Goldberg has taken a survey and received unofficial commitments for up to ¾ of the project. The question was asked how long would the project take and when would it start. Ray Setser explained that this will need approval from the State and Federal Level. Ray has already notified the state. Ray says we would like to start and finish the project in the summer of 2011.

Resolve: The B&G and Landmark Committee is authorized to complete design and installation of the accessibility ramp into the main sanctuary as conceptually presented with cost not to exceed \$65,000.

Discussion:

Can we decrease the slope to lower it beyond the ADA guidelines. Charlie stated that there was not room to further decrease the slope.

There was a unanimous decision by voice vote to approve the motion for the accessibility plan for the sanctuary.

The meeting was adjourned by Sally Newell.

Respectfully Submitted  
Warren (Trip) Banner  
Secretary of the Vestry