

# UUFM Mid-Year Meeting

January 28, 2024

GATHERING

**Greeting & Quorum Count:** 39 members counted at the start of the meeting.

**Chalice Lighting:** “We are a welcoming people of diverse beliefs who commit to nourish the spirit, broaden the mind, nurture the earth, and build community. May this flame we kindle remind us to strive, today and every day, to love beyond belief.”

## Review of the Behavioral Covenant

**Review of Agenda for additions/changes:** No changes were proposed.

## REPORTS

**Approve Minutes of Annual Meeting 5/21/23:** Kathy Brynaert motioned to approve the Annual Meeting minutes, and Jim Rovney seconded. The vote was in favor of approving the notes. 36 yes, 0 no and 3 abstained.

**Ministry Highlights:** See the separate minister’s report document.

### Board Highlights:

- We hired Rev. Diana McLean
- We are exploring the future and considering ways to grow our fellowship while keeping in mind the best use of our resources.
- Discussions about the next steps regarding the future of ministry at the UUFM are ongoing and we will hopefully have an answer soon.
- Committees have been active:
  - Building and grounds undertook a water abatement project last fall; they are working on a plan for new outdoor signage, as well as landscaping on the east side of the church. There is also continued work on the rental property and getting ready for the license renewal in the spring.
  - The Personnel committee has made updates to the employee handbook, are looking at insurance issues and fair pay issues.

**Treasurer’s Report:** A bar chart was shown in the power point with our expenses and income. Because of several generous donations the report showed a projected surplus of \$35,005.

- Tony Filipovitch motioned to approve the treasurer’s report, and Diane Dobitz seconded. The vote was in favor of approving the treasurer’s report. 38 yes, 0 no, and 1 abstained.

**Stewardship Report:** No report was given as the stewardship campaign kickoff was today.

## CONGREGATIONAL DISCUSSION/INPUT

## Approve Changes to the Bylaws:

- Approve Changes to Bylaws
  - Article V, Section B, 3. “The Treasurer shall be elected in odd numbered years for a two-year term ~~with~~ and may be reelected for three additional consecutive terms, with expectation of at least two terms.” Delete “with” to correct a typo
  - Article VI, Section C, 2. “Maintain a record of all votes taken at Board or Congregational <sup>^meetings.</sup>” Add meetings and a period to correcting a typo.
  - Article VII, Section B, 1. “Committee members shall elect a chair subject to approval by the Board at a ~~Fall~~ meeting.” Delete fall to allow for increased flexibility of calendar.
  - Article VII, Section B, 3. “Each committee chair shall prepare a committee report for the Annual May <sup>^meetings.</sup>” Add meetings and a period to correcting a typo.
  - Article VIII, Section B, 1. “~~By the September Board meeting,~~ a vision budget will be developed by the Board and the Finance Committee for use in the ~~fall~~ Stewardship Drive.” Delete wording about the time of year to increase flexibility of calendar.
  - Article VIII, Section B, 3. “The final budget shall be presented to the membership for their feedback at the Annual May <sup>^meetings.</sup>” Add meetings and a period to correcting a typo.
    - Andy Roberts motioned to approve the changes to the by-laws, and Diane Dobitz seconded. The vote was in favor of approving the changes to the by-laws. 36 yes, 0 no, and 3 abstained.
- Approve Changes to Board Membership
  - Linda Ganske – Secretary
  - Jon Peterson – Member at Large
    - Diane Dobitz motioned to approve the changes to the by-laws, and Gail Finley seconded. The vote was in favor of approving the changes to the by-laws. 39 yes, 0 no.

## Additional Comments:

- **In the past the rule of thumb was that pledges should cover at least 80% of spending. Currently we are only at about 60%.**
- **The dream is for a balanced budget and full-time ministry.**
- **We are in a better financial position now than when we hired Reverend Rita.**
- **Could we increase staff hours?**
- **If we knew the future of the ministry now, it would perhaps increase pledging. Conversely if we know what the budget is going to be it would help with the decisions about a minister.**

## ADJOURNMENT

**Chalice Extinguishing:** “We extinguish this flame, but not the light of truth, the warmth of

community, or the fire of commitment. These we carry in our hearts until we are together again.”

**Annual Meeting to take place Sunday, May 5, 2024**

John Knox motioned to adjourn, and Dave Schostag seconded. All in favor.