

First Universalist Church
Yarmouth, Maine
Minutes of Annual Meeting
June 3, 2007

The 2007 Annual Meeting was held in the vestry of the Church, commencing at 12:00 pm.

1. The President-elect, Marge Titcomb, presided at this meeting as our current President, Ken Nye, was unable to attend. Rev. Gail Collins-Ranadive welcomed all with an inspirational reading. With a headcount, it was determined that there were more than enough active members present (50+ present) to constitute a quorum.

2. The first order of business was approval of the minutes from the 2006/07 Annual Meeting. The question was moved and seconded; the minutes were unanimously approved.

3. The reports in this year's Annual Report were unanimously approved.

4. The Revised By-Laws were presented to be voted on. Two points, both related to Article VI—Congregational Meetings, Section 5—Voting, were brought up for discussion. (1) It was proposed that we amend the proposed Revised By-Laws to state that the approval of 75% of the congregation is required to pass any proposal, excepting the annual budget, which would create a financial commitment totaling \$500 or more per member; the steeple restoration was given as an example of this type of expenditure. After a brief discussion, a vote was called on whether to add this amendment. The congregation voted not to add this to the Revised By-Laws now, but to hold the Board responsible for considering this point and clarifying a policy for next year. (2) It was also proposed that the provision that “only those who have been members for 6 months or more may vote” be deleted from the Revised By-Laws. After a brief discussion, this deletion was unanimously approved. Related to this discussion, the Welcoming Committee committed to working with the minister this year to re-examine the process of becoming a member.

A motion to adopt the Revised By-Laws as amended was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

5. Financial Status.

Marge reported on this year's successful canvass. With the theme, “Carry the Flame” with its message of inspiration and responsibility, the congregation pledges totaled \$165,000—overall a 10% increase from last year's success. Special thanks were expressed to Tom McAdoo for generously donating the printing of the canvass materials (for the 4th year!)

Brent West presented a Financial Overview and Budget proposal for 2007-08. Roger Comstock was applauded for his steady hand in keeping our church finances in order and for leading us to end the year with a balanced budget. Brent's overview of 2006-07 emphasized that, due to controlled expenses and strong income growth, our income and expenses were virtually equal this year. In addition: (1)The member loan program was set up to pay for the three new furnaces; lenders will be paid interest only until repayment of the principal in 5 years. (2) We completed the transfer of funds earmarked for endowment; we now have a \$96,000 balance in our UUA account. (3)We paid our fair share dues to the UUA and District. (4) We did not borrow from reserves to meet this year's budget.

The Budget proposal for 2007-08 is a modest 5% increase, from this year's \$215,898 to \$226,846. The income budgeted is a conservative projection; expenses include appropriate staff salary increases, \$2,000 for a deferred maintenance fund and \$500 for Leadership Development—the latter being an item we have, in recent years, had to cut due to lack of funds.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the proposed 2007-2008 Budget. It was unanimously approved.

6. Transitions: Recognition of Service

Many members were recognized for their service and leadership this year.

(a) Roger praised the hardworking members of the Ministerial Search Committee—Nancy Dix (Chair), Dick Woodbury, David Kennedy, Susan Elias, Eva Thompson, Nancy Read, and David Breau—and presented each with an engraved plaque.

(b) Rev. Gail recognized the Transition Steering Team—David Kolb, Pete Titcomb, Joy Ahrens, and Leslie Bailey—for assisting in her interim ministry in our church, organizing congregational conversation and effectively preparing us for our new minister.

Rev. Gail also honored and thanked Angie Arndt, for her Pastoral Care residency this year.

(c) Rev. Gail was then recognized and heartily applauded for her guiding interim ministry to our congregation. Our best wishes go to her in her new settled ministry in Las Vegas.

Debbie Woodbury was gratefully recognized as out-going Office Manager as she begins her teaching career.

(d) The two awardees given recognition by the NorthEast District were: Ken Nye, for his strong leadership, and Eva Thompson, as “unsung hero” for her many, many acts of service in our church.

(e) Lastly, three out-going Board members were recognized: Ken Nye, Isabel Denham and Steve Thomas.

7. Elections

David Kolb, representing the Nominating Committee of Sarah Marshall, Jack Riordan, Debbie Woodbury and himself (to be joined by Lisa Williams this year), presented the slate of officers and board members: Marge Titcomb (President); *Eric Uhl (President-elect); Roger Comstock (Treasurer); Barbara Trentacosta (Clerk); Jane Makela, Anne Turner, *Will Truesdale and *Jeff O'Brien all At-Large Board Members. It was noted that there were a total of 10 members who had volunteered for the 3 new positions on the Board.

*Eric Uhl, Will Truesdale and Jeff O'Brien, new this year, were unanimously elected after the motion to do so was made and seconded.

8. Upcoming Work of the Church

Marge restated the goals we will carry on with in 2007-08: being an ethical employer and responsible stewards; providing for the spiritual growth of our children and adults; and, providing a platform for social justice. She identified 3 major themes for the coming year. (1) Continuing to strengthen our church home—including building our Adult RE program, restoring and raising the steeple, and growing our building reserves for routine maintenance. Also noted was the upcoming cleanup to be done to the parsonage in preparation for Jennifer's August 1 arrival. (2) Continuing to develop our spirit of Generosity—encouraging

Faith-in-Action, growing our commitment to social justice beyond our church walls, incubating a generous, loving and justice-seeking attitude. And (3) Address the question of Growth—through congregational conversations and embracing “welcoming” as a spiritual practice.

Eva Thompson explained the process of becoming a Welcoming Congregation which we will be beginning. Noting that half of the other Maine UU congregations are welcoming congregations, as are half of all American UU congregations, she urges us to become aware of our prejudices and do the work to be approved as a Welcoming Congregation. Three members have already committed to leading this work; other members are invited to join.

Jane Makela summarized the status of the steeple restoration. We had a very successful first year, raising a bit more than \$200,000 toward the \$330,000 completion. Phase One (removing and stabilizing the spire on the ground) is complete, Phase Two (repairing the belfry) will begin the first of July, and we already have half of the funds for Phase Three. Fundraising efforts will focus on the community outside the church in July and August and then return with an appeal to the congregation in the fall. The goal is to complete the restoration by summer 2008.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Trentacosta, Clerk