

## MINUTES – SPECIAL BI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

### First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit

Sanctuary – 4605 Cass, Detroit, MI 48201

December 18, 2016

**CALL TO ORDER:** A Special Congregational Meeting of the First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit was called to order by Board of Trustees President Kathe Stevens at 12:32 P.M on December 18, 2016. Kathe lit a candle to represent our flaming chalice before leading those present in reading our covenant aloud: “We covenant to work together in honesty, kindness, and respect for each other as we carry out our intention to do the business of this church to the best of our abilities. We are a religious community. Let us move forward in love.”

**ROLL CALL / VERIFICATION OF QUORUM:** Per UU Detroit bylaws, Article IV, §2, ¶D, forty (40%) percent of voting members shall constitute a quorum. At the time of this meeting, UU Detroit had 110 voting members, 40% of which was 44 voting members. Fifty-one voting members were present; therefore, there was a quorum at this meeting.

**INVOCATION:** The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray offered words of invocation.

**AMMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS:** Proposed changes to UU Detroit’s bylaws were distributed to members of the congregation for their review. A 75% majority of the voting members of the quorum present at a congregational meeting is required to approve bylaw changes, per Article IV, §2F of UU Detroit’s bylaws current at the start of this meeting. Since 51 voting members were present, 39 must vote in favor to approve a motion to successfully amend the bylaws of UU Detroit.

*Ad hoc* Bylaw Revision Committee members Dan Hale, Deanna McGraw, Kathe Stevens, and David Vaillencourt summarized the proposed bylaw changes and answered questions. It was **moved** by Joel Batterman, seconded by Toni Tront, to adopt the proposed changes to the bylaws of UU Detroit as written.

After discussion, Marsha Bruhn offered a friendly amendment that the proposed language of new Article IV, §2E be changed to read, “*Thirty-Five (35%)* of Voting Members present a duly called meeting of the Congregation shall constitute a quorum...” Joel and Toni accepted Marsha’s amendment.

After further discussion, it was **moved** by Walter Greene III, seconded by Danny Rebb, that the proposed changes to Article IV, § 2F(i) be changed to read, “Take any action regarding the title of the real estate *owned* by this Church;” **approved**.

After additional discussion, it was **moved** by Marilyn Mitchell, seconded by Bill Dickinson, that the proposed changes to Article VI, §4 be changed to read “... between the Minister and the Board of Trustees, it may ...” **Approved**.

The congregation voted on the proposed bylaw changes and the motion as amended was unanimously **approved**. Gratitude was expressed to the members of the *Ad hoc* Bylaw Revision Committee for their work.

**MINUTES OF MAY 15, 2016 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:** Minutes of the previous annual congregational meeting were distributed and reviewed. It was **moved** by Danny Rebb, seconded by Bob Lauer, to accept the minutes from the May 15, 2016 UU Detroit Annual Congregational Meeting as presented; **approved**.

**INFORMATIONAL FINANCIAL UPDATE:** Treasure Robert Lauer presented a year-to-date update on the Fiscal Year 2016-2017's budget to the congregation and answered questions.

**STRATEGIC PLAN QUARTERLY REPORT:** Deanna McGraw, Planning Committee member, reviewed the work of the Committee and the outcomes of the Strategic Plan to date, noting that the strategic plan had been adopted by the Board of Trustees and implemented in January 2016. Deanna answered questions from the floor. The Strategic Plan, which includes a quarterly progress update, is on the 1stuu.org website.

**PRESENTATION OF 2017 STRATEGIC PLAN:** Susan Morgan, Chair of the Planning Committee, and Bill Dickinson, Planning Committee member, presented the 2017 Strategic Plan to the congregation, noting that the strategic plan had been adopted by the Board of Trustees to be implemented in January 2017. Susan and Bill answered questions from the floor and expressed optimism for the upcoming year and appreciation for the process. The 2017 Strategic Plan is on the 1stuu.org website.

**SETTLED MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEE:** Deanna McGraw, Settled Minister Search Committee (SMSC) Chair, introduced Lorenza ("Lencha") Camacho Acker, Chloe Lundine, Bill McKnight, Sharon Mills, Joan Smykowski, and Nathan Strickland Jr., members of the SMSC, to the congregation. Deanna advised that after careful deliberation, the SMSC has decided to expand UU Detroit's Settled Minister Search outside of the scope of the UUA's search guidelines to potentially increase the amount of highly qualified candidates for the position of our Settled Minister. She further advised that the SMSC will have further information to report to the congregation in March 2017.

**CLOSING REMARKS:** Kathe Stevens closed the meeting by thanking the congregation. The meeting adjourned at 1:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

*Danny Rebb, Secretary*