

MINUTES – SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit

Social Hall – 4605 Cass, Detroit, MI 48201

March 26, 2017

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 12:30 P.M. on March 26, 2017. All present at the meeting read the following 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.”

VERIFICATION OF QUORUM: UU Detroit bylaws as amended on December 18, 2016, state under Article IV, §2, ¶E, that 35 percent (35%) of voting members shall constitute a quorum. At the time of this meeting, UU Detroit had 114 voting members, 35% of which is 40 voting members. Sixty voting members were present; a quorum of the congregation’s voting membership was present thus enabling business to be transacted.

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray excused himself from the meeting.

SETTLED MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT AND MOTION TO CALL: Committee Chair Deanna McGraw presented her written report and **moved** that The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray be called to serve as the three-quarter time settled minister of the First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit, effective July 1, 2017. Deanna then introduced the members of the Settled Minister Search Committee, each of whom spoke on the following subjects in support of the motion to hire Rev. Murray.

Sharon Mills – the results of the congregational survey.

Joan Smykowski – actions taken to advertise for and interview potential candidates.

Lorenza Acker – interviews, references, and background checks conducted.

Bill McKnight – the congregation’s ability to afford a three-quarter settled minister.

Nathan Strickland Jr. – why Rev. Murray is the correct candidate for this position.

The motion was **seconded** by Mary Lou Malone.

Discussion followed and congregants posed questions to members of the Settled Minister Search Committee.

CONGREGATIONAL VOTE AND RESULTS: UU Detroit bylaws as amended on December 18, 2016, state under Article VI, §2, that at least a four-fifths (4/5) vote of the quorum present at a congregational meeting is required to call a minister. The meeting was called to order with 60 UU Detroit voting members present and two additional members joined the meeting in progress, 4/5 of which is 50 voting members. The requirement was met. A total of 62 paper ballots were distributed.

At the conclusion of the vote, tellers Dan Hale, Danny Rebb, and Dave Vaillencourt collected the ballots and excused themselves to count them.

The tellers returned to the meeting to announce that there was a unanimous vote of **approval** on the motion to hire the The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray as UU Detroit's three-quarter time settled minister, at which time Rev. Murray was invited to rejoin the meeting.

Rev. Murray expressed to the congregation his gratitude for the call to serve as UU Detroit's three-quarter time Settled Minister.

CLOSING REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT: UU Detroit Board of Trustees President Kathe Stevens congratulated Rev. Murray on his call to continue to serve UU Detroit. She thanked the Settled Minister Search Committee for their efforts made during this search process and thanked the congregation for its commitment to be present at a meeting to call a settled minister. The meeting was adjourned at 1:18 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Danny Rebb, Secretary