



Westside Unitarian Universalist Church

Mid-Year Congregational Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2018

The regular Mid-Year Congregational Meeting of Westside Unitarian Universalist Church was called to order on January 14, 2018, at 1:30 p.m. with Bill Terry, Board President, chairing the meeting and Robert Vann, Board Secretary, taking minutes. The minutes of the last annual meeting, held June 11, 2017, were approved by elected committee and are available in the church office.

The Membership Committee provided a roster of current members, and Myrtle McMahan verified those in attendance. There are currently 176 members, of which 20%, or 35 members, is required for a quorum. As there were 53 members attending, there was a quorum, and business could be conducted.

The chair led the congregation in the Westside Affirmation.

Mary Noer, Chair of the Stewardship Committee, kicked off the stewardship campaign with a brief presentation. The theme this year is "No Place Like Home."

The Chair proceeded with awards and presentations, as follows:

The 2017 Dick Smith Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Financial Secretary Mary Alice Cretsinger for her many years of faithfully handling church money, as well as helping with the Samaritan House, the Peas Corps, and committee service.

James Finn was recognized for his outstanding leadership and contributions as previous President of the board and current Past President. James had stated that his main goal was "not to break the church." Bill confirmed that James had not only not broken the church, but had added to its continued success. James was presented with a crystal beer stein appropriately inscribed.

Myrtle McMahan gave an endowment request testimonial urging members of the congregation to include Westside in their wills, which for the next three years will activate a UUA grant of 10% of the amount allocated to Westside in the will, up to \$10,000, from the Wake Now Our Vision program. Myrtle stated that, on behalf of her late husband, Howard, her will will leave an amount exceeding the \$30,000 gift of the late Bob Conti. Linda Hanratty, Chair of the Endowment Committee, provided additional information on the program.

The Chair announced that member Joy Counts will provide a matching grant for the purpose of helping with Westside building transition upon departure of Angel Montessori School (AMS) at the end of May 2018. She will match any amount raised by the congregation over \$25000 and up to \$50,000. Bill asked that this be in addition to stewardship pledges, and stated that stewardship pledges must take priority. These must be current contributions, and not pledges, and will be accepted through April 30. Cash contributions pledged at the end of the recent auction will count towards the \$25000.

The congregation heard reports from the minister, the Director of Lifespan Religious Education (DLRE), the board president, and the treasurer:

The Rev. Woodbury led with a reading entitled, "Church That Doesn't Matter." Her report is attached.

The DLRE presented an upbeat report that noted the many opportunities available at Westside for better understanding Unitarian Universalism. His report is attached.

President Terry presented a comprehensive report on the current State of the Church. He noted the many activities that have taken place or are ongoing, touched on financial facets, and talked about the work of committees and other elements within the church--accompanied by a Power Point presentation. His report is attached.

Our treasurer, David Burlingame, reported on Westside's finances, a copy of which is attached. Highlights included the fact that, at mid-year, we have received 68% of pledged income, funds were donated for a Betty Sanders Recognition Garden, the December auction made over \$24,000, and the church is leaving Wells Fargo for Southwest Bank and Netchex, due to our disagreement with Wells Fargo investment policies.

Continuing Business comprised just one item, a report that the expiration of AMS' lease is on track for May 2018, as they are in the process of purchasing the nearby former Goodrich School for the Deaf . The Transition Team will continue to work to prepare for their exit, to include identifying which property belongs to us and which to AMS.

There were two **New Business** items, the first being ratification of approval by the Board of Directors for Westside to officially apply for and begin the process of becoming a Reproductive Justice Congregation. this entails commitment to the following principles:

1. We trust and respect all women and all people who can become pregnant.
2. We promise that all who attend our congregation will be free from stigma, shame or judgment for their reproductive decisions, including abortion.
3. We believe access to comprehensive and affordable reproductive health services is a moral and social good.

We will put these principles into practice by affirmation of the principles by a posted statement that we are a Reproductive Justice Congregation; by unification around reproductive justice issues, including OWL and collaboration with organizations whose work is focused on reproductive justice; and by providing public witness for reproductive justice in the political arena and the media.

Cindy Fountain moved that Westside's members ratify the board's affirmative decision for Westside to become a Reproductive Justice Congregation. The motion was seconded and CARRIED.

The second New Business item was approval of a major revision of the church bylaws. The Chair began with a brief background of the work on the revision (copy attached). The work lasted over a year, and was eventually presented to the board, where some additional changes were made and two town halls scheduled. About thirty-five members participated in the town halls, and there was good discussion and more changes made. Bill reviewed the major changes in the revision, and then requested a motion from the floor. Dianne Nixon moved that the bylaws be accepted as submitted today, and that we have it open for amendments before we vote. The motion was seconded, and discussion proceeded.

Reed Bilz moved to amend the newly added paragraph of Article 2 to delete wording after "...federal tax code" which read "...or other organizations that work to promote the welfare of living beings and their environment through non-political and primarily non-legislative-lobbying means." The amendment was seconded and CARRIED.

There were two wording revision options for Section 3.4 Friends, one approved by the Board, and the second preferred by the Membership Committee. This provoked considerable discussion. Bill asked for a motion to begin, and Dianne Nixon moved to accept the version preferred by the Membership Committee. Her motion was seconded. Discussion ensued until Reed Bilz moved to Call the Question [Previous Question]. Her motion was seconded, received the required two-thirds affirmative vote, and CARRIED. The vote then proceeded on Nixon's original motion to accept the version preferred by the Membership Committee. A close voice vote required a second vote by raising hands, and FAILED. Bob Vann then moved to accept the Board approved version of Friends. Bob's motion was seconded and CARRIED.

Bob Vann then advocated re-doing Section 10.3 Committee on Shared Ministry (see attachment to these minutes), and moved that the revised beginning paragraph, "Operational procedures for the COSM shall be established through a written committee policy approved by the Board and the Minister" be deleted, and that the first two paragraphs of the current bylaws be retained, along with additional revisions to this section, until the section could be further revised. The motion was seconded. There followed a heated discussion. Mary Noer moved to Call the Question. Her motion was seconded and CARRIED. There followed a vote on Bob Vann's motion. A close voice vote required a second vote by raising hands, and FAILED. Mary Noer then moved that, with respect to 10.3 Committee on Shared Ministry to read that this committee is a work in progress; the Committee on Shared Ministry is working with the bylaws revision committee, and the new bylaw will be voted on by the congregation at a future meeting. The motion was seconded and CARRIED.

The Chair then called for a vote on Nixon's original motion to accept the bylaws revision with the approved amendments. The motion CARRIED.

Mary Noer moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded and CARRIED. The meeting adjourned at 4:02 p.m.