

**Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation**  
**Annual Meeting - May 6, 2018**  
**Minutes**

- I. **Opening words** about change, commitment to love and justice, though slow, can be like glaciers that carve out Grand Canyons and the motion of tectonic plates can raise mountains. If we are committed and have more love, kind thoughts, and being good to each other, we can reach better heights.
- II. **Quorum certified at 17 members.**
- III. **Covenant of right Relations - Anne**
- IV. Kathy talked about Ralph Waldo Emerson and how he opened the door to thinking and enjoying nature at a time when the industrial revolution allowed time for leisure. Photography was also a craze, including nighttime photography of George Shiras. We started studying the creatures that share our planet.
- V. **State of the congregation By Kathy Campbell – See attached.**
- VI. **Citizen's Climate Lobby -**  
Vote to endorse Carbon Dividends John O'Bryan did a recap on the Carbon Fee and Dividend US Legislation. This would be a law that reduces the carbon emissions of fossil fuels. Individual household fuel bills and gasoline would be increase, but households would receive a monthly dividend from the fossil fuel providers. This would produce a bigger reduction in carbon emissions than the Paris Accord. Motion passes. MqtUU will be added to the list of endorsers.
- VII. **Board members**  
Kathy is running for re-election for a third term. She was nominated by several members g.g. gordon is withdrawing from the board.  
We require two nominations/volunteers  
Kathy: "The time commitment isn't negligible but we try to make it easy and flexible for members who have busy lives."  
Jane Harris said the UUA provides a lot of support and information to tell board members what's expected and how to work through issues.  
Heidi also said she's a personal assistant to board members.  
Mary Maki was nominated and accepted the nomination.  
Sari Embly was nominated and accepted the nomination.  
Jane Harris said the UUA has resources and guidance of leadership for the size of congregation we have. We have reduced the size of the church over the few years and that the board will have to be strong leaders and enthusiastic about change. BOT members will be called on understanding the budget and what change we need to have happen. They have a policy (well thought-out and tested) for everything. We can fall back on those guidelines. The Board members offer service to the rest of us and we need to offer them our support.

Kathy said UUs try to help everybody and when we can't we feel like failures. We need to congratulate each other and celebrate what we are doing.

**All three BOT candidates were elected.**

- VIII. **SURVEY RESULTS** Jamie Kuehnl was asked to prepare a few remarks about the survey she conducted. Feedback was collected from members and previous members who no longer attending to find out what happened and why they don't attend anymore. Jamie pushed the survey to inform the board on some important decisions . We got a big response rate with 26 out of 47 possible respondents. The top three choices were getting a minister, a music coordinator, AV equipment, bringing in outside Getting a minister is the overwhelming dominant response. Jamie was disappointed to hear that the board hasn't really taken the results to heart and use them to formulate actions.

- IX. **BUDGET** - The Board had a difficult situation, but used Jamie's survey to use three and half priorities 1. sunday services, 2. Religious exploration, 3. Music (and 4. promote UU and MqtUU)

The budget is down about 10% from last year, and down again 10% the year before. We are decreasing Joan's bequest to keep the doors open. The budget is a bitter pill. If members would increase their pledges by 25%, we could keep from dipping into Joan's Bequest. Anne called on members to bring a friend to two services and to talk about MqtUU more often.

RE: Faith in Action Line Item Cut - Billy asked if we should have a group to go to protests and if we should be in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. Kathy said all we need to do these events is to have a committed person to coordinate the event.

Jane suggested that the BOT bring the committee/activities that people want to have and set priorities so we have 3 issues. We've need to make some critical decisions.

Heidi went through the budget line by line. Sari asked if Share the Plate had been a line item. It has not ever been an line item. We have since changed to having a separate special collection for a rotating charity.

**The budget was adopted.**

- X. Jane asked that the agendas to meetings be posted ahead of time so that members can come to meetings to discuss issues of interest.
- XI. The meeting was adjourned at 2:09

**ANNUAL CONGRGATIONAL MEETING**  
**ADDRESS TO THE CONGREGATION,**  
**KATHRYN CAMPBELL**  
May 6, 2018

--Chalice Lighting--

The Rev. Israel Buffardi spoke the following to his West Virginia congregation at a time of change:

“The road that lies ahead of us is a long one, and the pace of progress will sometimes feel glacially slow.

Never forget that glaciers over time can carve out grand canyons and great lakes.

Moving tectonic plates can rise up mountains over millennia, or they can explode awe-inspiring volcanoes in milliseconds.

Our commitment to love and justice can do the same.”

One objective of this Congregational Meeting each year, is to provide everyone in our congregation with an awareness of where we currently stand, on our own proverbial road. On this day, we remind ourselves of our commitments... reflect on the value of what we have at this juncture as we look to the future and to our mutual vision for MQTUU.

As President of the Board of Trustees, I will begin today by sharing where we stand, in this “State of MQTUU” address. So I think we all should stand, if we are able... stand for a moment, take a deep breath, and look around.

On this day—Sunday, May 6, 2018—this is who we are. Who do you see? The people, yes... women, men, young people, little ones... the hearts and minds that comprise our congregation—who we are.

What else do you see? The space we are standing in... our sanctuary, to some “our sacred space.” Now be seated, and look beyond the window-glass, to where we can see trees and grasses, bushes... this, too, is part of our space and part of who we are... more-so, because we have established some traditions here at MQTUU that include the immediate area surrounding the building and some parts beyond: Memorial gardens and memorial trees, native wildflowers that attract pollinators and morph monarchs, multiple transplanted trees designed to screen the meeting house from the highway, a quiet campfire area, and more.

Eyes forward now, to the place where the person leading Sunday’s service generally stands (or sits, as the case may be). Most of us agree it would be ideal if we had a UU minister, at least part-time. Each year, nearly the entire Sunday Service Committee budget is spent to pay “outside” people to lead services for us. Unfortunately, a UU minister we had scheduled for three additional services suddenly left the area and was unable to follow-through.

**By the end of the year, we will have had 3 UU ministers present a total of four services.** In addition to availing ourselves of UU ministers when possible, the Sunday Services Committee reached **out to NMU faculty and students as well as members of the local community, to recruit speakers for our**

**services and forums that reflect the seven principles of Unitarian Universalism.**

**Another door has opened for us with the purchase of the Soul Matters source materials, which provide monthly themes for services that also coordinate with RE. Those who presented Soul-Matters-inspired services this spring are enthusiastic and eager to lead forums so that others might be inspired to lead.**

**The piano to the right at the front has been used a whole lot less this year, due to the temporary loss of two of our pianists. We are committed to having live music as much as possible.**

Now, cast your eyes to the opposite end of the building. Do you know what happens down at that end each Sunday after we “sing the children out?” We are very fortunate to have Jamie working with the children. Her ideas are inspirational, her energy is contagious, and the kids love her. RE is at the center of the beating heart of MQTUU.

One year ago, our stated primary commitment for 2017-18 was to “focus on ourselves.” And this is us.

We are a small congregation—40 members—fewer people than twelve years ago, when MQTUU purchased this building, and fewer even than only a few years ago, when we could actually afford to increase the amount we paid on our mortgage.

Stay tuned for more budget-talk... I’m trying to be brief so we can enjoy the day... but I need you to know you’ve been HEARD when it comes to your desires and your fears when it comes to MQTUU. Stay tuned for information on the survey many of you took, and for follow-up on Studio RAD, and for some ideas that may help our current financial crisis.

Some of you HEARD Stewardship Chairman Gary Stark’s plea for increasing pledge amounts and paying pledges on time. Some of you HEARD the pleas of Jane Harris, Sari Embley and others for volunteers to help with the many little things that can become an overwhelming burden if they must be shouldered by the same small group of people.

We need to build our numbers, and we have ideas regarding that, which will be shared in a bit.

Referring back to Rev. Buffardi’s words at the beginning of this speech: “Moving tectonic plates can rise up mountains over millennia, or they can explode awe-inspiring volcanoes in milliseconds. Our commitment to love and justice can do the same.”

Our commitment is also to Love... to be kind to ourselves as a congregation and as individuals, in this place and at this time... moving forward as best we are able for the good of All.... or “good of most” (knowing we can’t please all) but hoping All who comprise our congregation understand our aims are just.

Hymn # 1020 “Woyaya”

“We are going, heaven knows where we are going  
We’ll know we’re there  
We will get there, heaven knows how we will get there  
We know we will

“It will be hard we know  
And the road will be muddy and rough  
But we’ll get there, heaven knows how we will get there  
We know we will...”