

Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Minutes of Annual Meeting 6/25/23

1. Determination of Quorum:

Members highlighted below were present:

Campbell, Frederick

Campbell, Kathryn

Cooper, Phil

Embley, Sari

Glenda "G. G." Gordon

Griffith, Lindsay

Johnson, Sarah

Kuehnl, Jamie

Lancour, Laura

Maki, Mary

Malin, Jill

Stark, Gary

Stark, Anne

Steindler, Martin

Stensaas, David

Teresa "Teri" Rockwood

Susy Swanson

Urban, Susan

Wagner, Christie

Since there were 13 members attending in person and two online (Mary M. and Dave S.), it was determined that a quorum was present. Christie reviewed the agenda, and gave the count of attendees.

2. Jill gave the budget report and reviewed account balances. She reported that we did not spend more than we budgeted over the last year. She went through the budget line by line. She answered several questions. Martin motioned to approve the budget report, Gary seconded, the budget report was approved with 12 votes in favor, one opposed.
- a. Sarah reported that she is stepping back from being the Spiritual Exploration coordinator. There was a discussion on whether we need to seek a new SE coordinator, consensus was not at this time. Christie commented that if we get more children, the Board could assign funds for SE at that time. Jill noted that if we got more children, we would get more pledges, and we could use that money to fund SE. Mary asked what was budgeted for SE for 2023-24, and commented that we would most likely not need more money unless we get more children.
 - b. Sari commented on raising the charge for renting the building, and that people usually need to come to a Sunday service three times before they will attend on a consistent basis.

- c. Mary commented that building costs come to \$11,000 annually, so the funds over and above the current 2023-24 pledges (approx. \$9,000) will need to come from Joan's bequest.
 - d. Jill moved to call the vote on the 2023-24 Budget, 11 voted in favor, 2 against, motion passed.
3. Christie gave the Board President's report and summarized our social media, online presence and other activities:
 - OWL this year had 12 students, we will not offer OWL next year.
 - Reported on triangle services, proposed that each congregation host one a month.
 - Fundraising: Car wash, soup dinner for JJ Packs.
 - Building use over the past year: Northern Learning Hub, dance parties, one wedding and one birthday party.
 - We have raised building rental fees, not including a non-refundable cleaning fee.
 - Sari pointed out that the building has been a home for families. She pointed out that renting in Marquette has been difficult in the past.
 - Mary said she thinks we should raise the rental fees substantially to cover building expenses in order to keep the building.

Christie reported on the current state of the Board of Trustees. She also reported on attendance at services. Mary commented that our financial prospects are not good, nor are there members from which to draw energy to grow the congregation.

4. Christie gave recommendations from the current Board.
 - a. Planning to sell the property.
 - b. Rent room in Marquette, near NMU, but not before we sell the building.
 - c. Maintain UU Congregation status. We have the option of becoming a covenanting community, Christie recommended that we not do this now.
 - Mary proposed that we find a free place to rent in Marquette, and test the waters for attendance.
 - Sari suggested that we stay a UU congregation, use the building, and pump up our online presence.
 - Dave commented that we cannot sustain the property, reminded the attendees that selling off a part of it was once an option and might be again, and that it could take a long time to sell the property. He recommended that we start trying to sell the property ASAP. He also recommended that we accept that we have to start over again somewhere else.
 - d. Susy motioned to approve the Board President's report, Martin seconded, approved with 13 votes in favor, none opposed.
5. Nominations and Election of the Board of Trustees
 - a. Jill is on 2nd year of 2nd term.
 - b. Martin was nominated, accepted. Vote: 12 yes, one abstention.
 - c. Susan was nominated, accepted. Vote: 13 yes, none opposed.

6. Jill moved to plan to sell the property, Sarah seconded.
 - a. Sarah commented that we should explore the option of selling a part of the property.
 - b. Mary opined that we should offer the property to the Ojibwa tribe.
 - c. Vote: 11 yes, 2 no.
 - d. Dave and Teri committed to be members of a Building Sale committee.
7. Christie suggested that we put off voting on changing the status of the congregation, since we will maintain our current status with the UUA until February 1, 2024, and we will need to take time to look into what a change to a different status would involve. There was general agreement on this.
8. Christie summarized service options for July. She asked if we should hold potlucks, and if so, where. There was very little enthusiasm for this. She suggested that offering only online links to services at other churches and fellowships in the TNT newsletter and on the MUUC website would be best. She also pointed out that most likely we will continue with this through August. There was general agreement on this.
9. Adjournment: 1:17 p.m.