

# **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Union Church in Waban June 7, 2015**

The Annual Meeting of the UCW was called to order by *Thomas Humphrey* at the direction of the Moderator, *Alicia Collins*.

The first order of business was the Pastor's Report of *Reverend Stacy Swain*. Rev. Swain highlighted the following items which are detailed in the 2014-15 Annual Report:<sup>1</sup> the all-church retreat on November 8 and 9, the faith exploration and confirmation process for 15 youth, and the many opportunities for small group fellowship and faith formation that took place throughout the church year. Rev. Swain reminded the congregation that she would be on Sabbatical leaving from August 24 to November 17, 2015. During her sabbatical time, *Rev. Christy Lang Hearlson* will be our spiritual leader.

Co-Moderator, *Alicia Collins*, delivered the Moderator's Report and highlighted the success of the restructuring of church council authorized by the congregation at the last annual meeting and noted the challenges of ensuring a good flow of communication throughout the teams' and council structures. Council's recommendation that the actions approved by the congregation last year be continued for the next year to allow the council as presently constituted to continue.

*Jim MacDonald* delivered the report for the deacons and the worship Team. The Deacons had an excellent year in planning worship services and attending to the care and concerns and spiritual well being of the congregation. Jim highlighted the excellent service of the departing deacons *Anne Hadley, Bev Hadley and Karen Weisgerber* and welcomed new deacons, *Mark Smith, Anne Williams and Molly Owen-Kiritsy*

*Jane Purser* delivered the report for the mission outreach team with reports on the Nicaragua team from *Soo Laski* and a report on the Zambia team by *Brita Gill-Austern*. Brita summarized the success of the seven-year relationship with Community Without Borders (CWB) and reported that changes in CWB, now an NGO in Lusaka, Zambia, as well as other factors led us to end our relationship with them. CWB has made a commitment to support the children in high school who are already enrolled and UCW will support the high school girls of Mtendere until they graduate.

*Jane Purser* gave the Hunger Team report describing a number of hunger/poverty initiatives including our support of family access (formally Newton Serves), our participation in the Bread for the World campaign and activities with Common Cathedral, Haley House and Boston Warm.

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<sup>1</sup> The Annual Report containing the reports of all officers, teams and committees of the church, the proposed budget, as well as other documents distributed to the members and the attendance list are all available from the UCW Office. [ucw@ucw.org](mailto:ucw@ucw.org)

Nancy Zollers reported on the Russell Elementary School partnership highlighting our successful effort to save the school music program through our own funding and obtaining matching funds and planning for sustaining the music program in the years to come. Other successful activities at Russell included International Night Open House, Computer Club, Math and Literacy Nights, individual mentoring and support for the Russell Parent Council. Ms Zollers asked the annual meeting members to reflect on the importance of our work at Russell School by thinking about the great efforts we all make to insure our children have the best educational opportunities and realizing how difficult that is where newly arrived parents work two jobs to make ends meet and face a myriad of language and cultural obstacles to access education in schools that lack many of the basic resources we take for granted.

*Karen Weisgerber* delivered the stewardship report describing the stewardship committees work in securing payments on this year's pledges and favorable performance on the church's investment account. The stewardship committee has set a goal of \$170,000 in pledges for the coming year, a realistic projection for our growing church.

*Karen Salides*, Director of youth and children's ministries, delivered the Christian Education Program report. This year 84 children were involved in Sunday school in four Sunday school classes. In accordance with our church safety policy, two teachers are required for each class. Our current policy and practice is to staff the classes with volunteer teachers. There were 22 regular Sunday school classes and 18 one-room church school classes throughout the year requiring 194 teacher slots. Many church members have contributed their time volunteering; however, recruitment and coverage was challenging. Upon consideration of the Sunday school situation, Council has recommended the recruitment and hiring of four new teachers. There was an extended discussion of this recommendation and the advantages and disadvantages of hiring new staff. There were a number of constructive recommendations as well as concerns about moving away from the current volunteer model. The discussion and all points of view reflected the high priority of maintaining UCW's child-cherishing values. As reflected in the record of Motions passed the budget for four additional teachers was approved. Karen also reported that there would be a small increase registration fees for the coming year.

*Nancy Laste* delivered a report for the Human Relations Committee giving a personnel update and noting that the scheduled annual reviews were postponed until the final quarter of the year. Nancy solicited for new members of the HR team and noted that *Linda Lynch* will be joining the team with herself and *Tom Vawter*.

*Tom Humprhey* and *Frank Laski* delivered the report for the Prudential Team highlighting the work that Tom Humphrey did to resolve the problems with the reliability of the elevator in the winter and the work that Tom, *Nancy Zollers* and *Annie Gatewood* did to monitor the changes due to traffic flow and street parking associated with the opening of the new Angier school. Tom Humphrey encouraged members to contribute to

the ongoing work of Prudential in maintaining the church building and added to the slate of the Prudential Team *Robert Nagle* and *Judy Nagle*.

Treasurer *Tony Abbiati* presented the 2015-16 UCW budget. Upon the presentation of the budget details and responding to questions concerning the church investments, the capital campaign funds and the operating budget, the budget was approved as presented with the amendment of the item for new Sunday school teachers approving an amount of \$9,600. . *Sandra DaDalt* submitted the clerk's report *in absentia*. Active membership as of July 1, 2014 was 192. Active membership as of June 7, 2015 is 212.

**Motions offered and passed at the Annual Meeting:**

- Motion to extend the current suspension of the by laws to continue the council and team structure for an additional year made by *James MacDonald*, seconded by *Frank Laski*. Passed unanimously.
- Motion that the slate of nominees for church officers and council be accepted made by *James MacDonald*, seconded by *Tom Vawter*. Passed unanimously.
- Motion of thanks and appreciation to *Nancy Zollers* for her many years of dedicated service on the church council made by acclamation and accompanied by a round of applause.
- Motion of thanks and appreciation to *Alicia Collins* for her dedicated service as co-moderator made by acclamation and accompanied by a vigorous round of applause.
- Motion for the approval of the church budget for 2015-16 with the amendment to increase the line item for new teachers to \$9,600 made by *Tom Vawter*, seconded by *Annie Gatewood*. Passed.
  
- *Robert Nagle* moved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting ended *circa* 12:55PM.

Respectfully submitted

Frank Laski  
*Clerk ProTempore*