

First Unitarian Church of St. Louis
Annual Meeting
May 15, 2016

72 congregants were in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 11:34 by Tiffany Sewell.

Tiffany Sewell gave an overview of the agenda.

Brian Mason gave the opening words at 11:36.

Kathy Wire read the congregational covenant.

Erin Milligan offered the Minutes of the May 17, 2015 Annual Meeting.

Tiffany gave the Church President's Remarks and offered discussion of the Secretary's Report and the Treasurer's Report.

Steve Smidowicz presented on the Budget Process

- Process was different this year, more collaborative, with a Budget Summit to collect requests and answer questions
- Requests were greater than projected revenues
- A second Budget Summit was offered to allow numbers to be in alignment. This proposal was presented to the Council and Policy Board for final approval. It relied on an analysis of actual expenditures through February 2016, then the remainder were projected for each area.
- Currently there's a 9K surplus for 2015-2016.
- The proposal includes a 2% salary increase for staff
- 395K in pledge revenue for 2016-2017 is still optimistic, in Steve's opinion. There may need to be more modifications of the budget.
- Question – Nothing budgeted for Capital reserve.
- Stable, but without changing patterns in pledging and membership, more choices and cuts will have to be made.
- Question – Savings from salary savings from not having a pastor? No, interim minister will be paid similarly to the settled minister.
- Question about Thomas' salary – 130 approximately, which includes everything.

Tiffany acknowledged the leaders of the Church Council and Policy Board and discussed nominations.

- Karen Siegrist is ending her term on the Council.
- Kathy Wire is ending her term as a member of the Policy Board.
- Tiffany discussed openings on the Council and Board.
- Tiffany presented the list of those who have agreed to serve for the upcoming year. There is an opening to fill Treasurer's Role. Kathy Wilke was nominated.
- Carole Watson has accepted nomination for Church Council Chair.
- Steve Smidowicz and Clint Cruse are nominated for cluster coordinators (Council positions).
- Motion to approve the slate– made, seconded. No one opposed, no abstentions, all approved.

Larry Dusenbery provided the Long Range Planning Update.

- Two years ago, the Policy Board wanted to plan from a long-range standpoint, identifying strengths, weaknesses and opportunities.

- The LRP group expanded its work to the congregation with a series of meetings and created committees and focus groups, obtained a lot of feedback and data.
- About a year was spent analyzing collected data.
- Themes emerged, communication, focus, things related to stewardship and finances.
- Identified particular values and visions from the mission statement and thought that some needed to be brought forward and changed.
- Developed 50 goals to address, which were narrowed to 23 goals. Larry asked everyone to take a look at these stated goals.
- Future tasks: take goals, move them into a time frame, think about how to accomplish them and turn them into plans. Identify congregants who will spearhead and accomplish goals.

Kathy Wire discussed the Interim Minister Search.

- Kathy discussed why we do interim ministry – special training and expectations to help us through the process of engaging with a new settled minister. It’s a consulting role.
- Discussed salary of interim ministry – goal is to approximate the departing minister.
- Thomas made his announcement on April 12, application for interim was due on April 22.
- Kathy and the interim search team surveyed different groups of people in the church and took an informal survey, Kathy noted a great deal of consistency, she was comfortable presenting these concepts as our priorities in the application.
- UUA provided us with names about a week ago, ministers who expressed an interest in our church. The committee is continuing its selection process, which should be complete in a week.
- Kathy acknowledged all of the members of the interim search team: Jeremy Colton, Erin Milligan, Kathy Wilke, Brian Blosser, Emily Jaycox
- The narrowed group is very experienced and excited to work with us.
- Question – Their contracts typically begin on August 1, but it depends on the process that the particular minister wants to follow.
- Question – There will not be a congregational vote, it will be a vote of the Board.
- If we don’t get a match, we will go into the next round of searching for an interim. There’s not an overwhelming need to take someone just to fill a spot.
- Question – Typically the contracts are for 1 year with an option to renew for an additional year.

Brian Mason gave the closing words at 12:33.

Motion to adjourn, seconded. Adjourned.