

Meeting Minutes

Congregational Meeting of the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church

25 April 2010

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 on Sunday, 25 April 2010, in the Meeting House. Reid Adler, chair of the Board of Trustees, presided; Ron Brandt and Jamie Barnett served as parliamentarians. Approximately 100 members and friends attended the meeting which was preceded by a potluck dinner and a member recognition and remembrance ceremony. Ninety-eight members registered to vote, constituting a quorum. A printed copy of the Annual Reports of the Congregation was available at each table. The reports are also available on the church's website.

Reverend Kate Walker opened with inspirational words about congregational life.

Jim Potter, co-chair of the Stewardship committee, recognized those serving on the committee—Anne Ulm, Jamie Barnett (co-chair), Al Robbert, Angel Collins, and Georgia Pourchot—and recognized all members serving as visiting stewards. Al Robbert reported that over \$400,000 in pledges is expected to be raised for this year's campaign.

In his report as chair of the Board of Trustees, Reid Adler highlighted accomplishments of programs, committees and volunteers that have contributed to a successful church year. Reid noted that for the first time in many years MVUC has a complete and permanent professional staff in place, enabling the Board and leadership to focus more on effective planning, governance, and envisioning for the future growth and success of MVUC.

Al Robbert, chair of the Finance committee, reported that it is expected that MVUC will have revenues of \$530,000 and expenses of \$600,000 for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. At present there are undesignated funds on hand that will be used for this budget deficit. However, this pad will be depleted during the year and alternate funding and/or spending will be necessary. Al noted that although we will have a deficit operating budget, MVUC is in sound financial condition, having property and assets (endowment, building and other designated funds) exceeding \$4,000,000.

Joan Darrah, co-chair of the Mission and Vision task-force, presented the new Mission and Vision statements for congregational approval. Joan thanked all church members who participated in meetings to create these statements, and especially those who worked with her in capturing, synthesizing, and wordsmithing the many ideas presented at the meetings—Karen Tyson (co-chair), Rev. Kate Walker, Ben Whelan-Morin, and Howard and Sue Lamb who served as facilitators. **The statements as follows were unanimously approved.**

MVUC Mission

MVUC is a loving and inclusive community. Our mission is to encourage one another on our spiritual journeys and to work together to build the common good.

MVUC Vision

We will:

- Live our UU principles and be a voice for liberal religion;
- Create vital worship experiences that engage our minds, hearts and spirit;
- Engage in lifespan religious education and learning;

Expand our social justice leadership and commitment;
Become a more diverse and multi-generational community.
To achieve our vision, we will practice intentional, responsible
stewardship.

Tom Griffin, co-chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate of nominees.
No nominations were made from the floor. **The slate of nominees was unanimously approved.**

Board of Trustees:

Ian Anderson – Youth Representative (2011)
Becky Brandt (2012)
Peg Bartel (2013)
Keith Brophy (2013)
Al Robbert (2013)

Program Council:

Betsy Lowry (Religious Education-2012)
Ruth Ann MacCleery (Our Home Community-2012)
Georgia Pourchot (Our Larger World/Social Action-2012)

Nominating Committee:

Sandy Peterson (2012)
Betsy Yarrison (2012)

Joan Darrah presented for congregational reauthorization the following Social Justice Task Force initiatives, as recommended by Georgia Pourchot, Program Council coordinator for Our Larger World/Social Action:

Social Action on Route 1, led by Helen Lounsbury - **Approved**
Green Sanctuary, led by Dick Schaeffer and Bill Alsmeyer-Johnson - **Approved**

Reid Adler presented the following proposed changes in the church bylaws as recommended by the Board of Trustees:

5.01 Annual Meeting – proposed change

The annual congregational meeting shall be held during (April of each year) the last quarter of each church fiscal year, at an hour and a place determined by the Board.
Rationale: The Church fiscal and board year run from 1 July through 30 June. It would be helpful for the Board to have flexibility in scheduling the annual meeting, including a time closer to the end of the fiscal year when results from the Stewardship campaign will be available for budget purposes.

After discussion, the change was amended to read as follows: The annual congregational meeting shall be held during April or May, at an hour and a place determined by the Board. **Approved as amended.**

5.02 Special Meetings – proposed change

(Special congregational meetings may be called at any time by the Board. The Board shall) The Board may call a special congregational meeting at any time. The Board must call a special congregational meeting within thirty (30) days after receiving a written

request for such a meeting from not less than ten percent (10%) of the resident members. Rationale: This clarifies the provisions regarding special meetings. **Approved.**

5.03 Announcement of Meetings – proposed change

(Written) Notice of each annual or special meeting, stating the agenda of the meeting, shall be mailed or e-mailed to each member at least fourteen (14) days before the date of the meeting. Announcement in the church's regular newsletter (may be deemed written notice) is appropriate notice. The announcement of the annual meeting shall include names of all persons nominated for elected positions and a detailed budget proposed by the Board for the forthcoming financial year. The text of any resolutions presented for action at the meeting, including any proposed by individual members, shall be included in the notice. The method of voting may also be specified. Individuals wishing to make proposals which would require changes in the Bylaws or dealing with personnel matters or organizational structure shall submit them to the Board in writing (by March 1) no later than 45 days before the annual meeting . Proposals on other matters may be offered from the floor at the meeting without advance notice.

Rationale: Provides for the use of e-mail. Also provides time for the proposal to be considered by the Board at a regular monthly meeting, and circulated to the Membership along with other materials to be considered at the annual meeting. The timing is essentially what happens at present. **Approved.**

6.04 Vacancies – proposed change

In the event of a vacancy on the Board due to the resignation of a trustee or the inability of a trustee to perform the duties of office, the Board may appoint a resident member of the congregation to serve until(the next annual meeting, at which time) the end of the current church fiscal year. At the next annual meeting after that appointment, the congregation shall elect a trustee to serve the remainder of any unexpired term. Serving by appointment for more than six months shall be considered a one-year term. No person shall serve as a trustee for more than three consecutive years.

Rationale: This change ensures greater continuity by allowing the appointed board member to complete the work of the current board by serving until the end of that current fiscal year. **Approved**

7.02 Vice Chair –proposed change

Following the annual meeting, the Board shall elect a vice chair from its membership to serve a one-year term. The vice chair shall act as chair in the absence of the chair and shall have such additional duties as may be assigned by the Chair or the Board.

Rationale: This is a standard approach to authorizing the responsibilities and duties of a vice-chair and is consistent with the Board's policy to delegate responsibilities where appropriate. **Approved**

7.03 Secretary –proposed change

Following the annual meeting, the Board shall elect a secretary from its membership to serve a one-year term. The secretary shall provide for recording and timely posting of the minutes of all meetings of the congregation and the Board, and shall have such additional duties as may be assigned by the Chair or the Board.

Rationale: This is a standard approach to authorizing the responsibilities and duties of a secretary and is consistent with the Board's policy to delegate responsibilities where appropriate. **Approved**

After the formal part of the meeting, the floor was opened to congregants to express their joys and concerns about MVUC.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Birgit Robbert