

MINUTES

Annual Meeting

April 14, 2007

Massachusetts Bay District of the Unitarian-Universalist Churches, Inc.

CALL TO ORDER

The Moderator, the Reverend Sheldon Bennett, called the meeting to order at 11:03 AM.

The Moderator recognized District Administrator, Hilary Green, who informed the meeting that 71 delegates representing 32 of 55 congregations were in attendance.

Special Announcements

The Moderator recognized two individuals who each offered two-minute announcements:

1. Lynn Holbein introduced the newly formed *UU Massachusetts Action Network* to coordinate social justice efforts of UU congregations across the commonwealth.
2. Bruce Langmuir asked for participation by MBD congregations in collective action on global warming, vis-à-vis the recent Statement of Conscience developed at the Cincinnati GA.

REPORTS

Board President

The MBD President, the Reverend Jim Sherblom, was recognized and offered highlights from his printed report: notably the Board's move to Policy Governance with thanks to Director and previous President, Barbara Bates, for spearheading that effort, the *Churches Come First* initiative by the UUA, and the *Open Space Technology* concept that will be implemented at this year's GA. Jim also noted that membership is growing in several congregations within the District.

Executive Team

The District Executive, the Reverend Doctor Terasa Cooley, highlighted the planned format changes to the very successful *Learning Congregations* program to evening *Leadership Arts and Crafts* trainings in various locations with two larger regional events, the MBD has been the largest contributor to UU Gulf Relief.

Program Consultant, the Reverend Doctor Elizabeth Strong, highlighted several areas including leading the second year of *RE Conversations* with District RE Educators, introducing the new no-cost online RE curriculum, *Tapestry of Faith*, and recognized several people involved in RE across the District for completing 5 Renaissance Modules: Thea Shapiro, Lynn Weygint and, Mary Rogers. Completing Masters of Arts in RE, Irene Praeger, and a Masters of Divinity, Diane Elliot. Liz also achieved a graduate credential as a Supervisor of Field Education and Intern students through the Boston University School of Theology. Gail Forsyth-Vail is the 2007 recipient of the UUA Angus MacLean Award.

This will be Liz's final year as Program Consultant and Terasa will assume primary contact with the Board.

MBD UUA Trustee

Paul Rickter, the MBD UUA Trustee, is the only candidate for the next four year term. Paul has served as Trustee since 2001. This will be his second and final term. Paul mentioned the UUA's interest in moving towards a Policy Governance model and the hopefully viable techniques to be used in the 2007 GA to foster greater democratic communication and further faith development.

RECOGNITION

The Moderator called Jim Sherblom, Terasa Cooley and Liz Strong to recognize the service of outgoing members of the Board: Sue Adams, Bill Blumberg, Rev. Gene Navias, and Rev. Roger Peltier.

Also recognized for their service to the District were: District Administrator, Hilary Green; Nomination Committee Chair, Rev. Kathy Reis, who is stepping down, and Director, Barbara Bates, for all her work in helping the Board implement Policy Governance.

FORMAL BUSINESS

The Minutes of the 2006 Annual Meeting were submitted for approval and were accepted.

Proposed Budget

The MBD Treasurer, Nancy Nichols, was called to report on the budget. As the Treasurer assumes an advisory role over fiduciary matters of the District under Policy Governance, Executive Director Terasa Cooley was called to present the 2007 District Budget. Highlights of her budget report included the recognition of Fair Share congregations, the total Fair Share contribution has increased since 2006, an increase in District dues in 2009 is planned to fund Social Action and Young Adult Coordinators. There will be a marked priority placed on supporting youth in the UU movement.

Terasa presented a balanced budget which included a grant from the UUA Grants Panel. One offset is the amount of \$15k, approved by the board, to support the move of the District office to new space in the summer of 2007. Terasa noted the consultation offered by the FACT team.

Questions from the floor were recognized by the Moderator:

1. Q: Why is there a decrease in program expenses in the 2007 budget compared to last year's?
A: (Answered by Terasa Cooley) The larger "cluster" events being planned will be less expensive to produce. The Learning Congregation workshops that did not include presenters well-known to those likely to attend the workshops were not well attended.
2. Q: Why are there no line items to view?
A: (Answered by Jim Sherblom) The budget reflects Policy Governance in its presentation. The line items, though available, are accounted for by the Executive Team and unnecessary for this meeting.
Q: Could some brief detail be made available for next year's budget?
A: Yes, we can do that for next year.

As there was no more discussion, a motion was made to approve the Budget for 2007. The vote was unanimous to accept.

Nominations

Nominating Committee Chair, Rev. Kathy Reis was recognized. Kathy encouraged all assembled to respond with a "Yes" when called to serve the District.

Kathy offered the following Slate of Nominees for Officers, Directors, and Adjunct Officers:

- Officers: Rev. Jim Sherblom (President 2008), Melissa Quirk (Vice-President 2008), John Laurensen (Secretary 2008)
- Directors: Rev. Lilli Nye (2010), Pat Manley (2010), John Laurensen (2010), Lynne Meri (2009)
- Adjunct Officers: Nancy Nichols (Treasurer 2008), Sheldon Bennett (Moderator 2008)

The continuing Directors are: Barbara Bates (2008), Melissa Quirk (2009), and Rev. Jim Sherblom (2009).

Kathy noted four clarifications to be made on the Nominations Slate:

1. There is not a Director to be named at a later date. All current open seats were filled.
2. The term of Treasurer, currently filled by Nancy Nichols, is a one-year term, not three.
3. The term of Moderator, currently filled by Sheldon Bennett, is a one-year term, not three.
4. John Laurensen completed the term of a vacated Director seat and is running for a new three-year term. The term of Secretary is one-year.

A motion was made to accept the slate of candidates for Officers, Directors, and Adjunct Officers, and was approved.

Kathy offered the following Slate of Nominees for the Nominating Committee:

- Mark Richards (2010), Rev. Frank Clarkson (2010).

The continuing members of the Nominating Committee are: Lorraine Dennis (2008), Sue King (2009), Maddie Sifantus (2009), and Jim Staton (2008) who is serving as Chair.

A motion was made to accept the slate of Nominating Committee candidates, and was approved.

Adjournment

Closing Remarks were made by MBD President, the Rev. Jim Sherblom, who noted the cordial atmosphere of the meeting by saying: "Isn't the messy business of being human beautiful?"

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

John Laurensen, MBD Director