

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF CHATTANOOGA
ANNUAL MEETING
May 20, 2012, Sunday**

PRESENT:

Wendes Jones, President-Elect	Yvonne Derrickson, VP of Programs
Frank Caperton, VP of Ways & Means	Elaine Watkins (recording)
George Helton, Treasurer	
(54 UUCS Total Members Present)	

LIGHTING OF THE CHALICE – Maureen Olin

CALL TO ORDER

- Wendes Jones called the meeting to order at **12:25 PM, Sunday, the 20th of May.**

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

- Elaine Watkins confirmed that, out of 143 members, 54 members were present, meeting the number required for a quorum.

MINUTES FROM LAST YEAR'S MEETING

- Eric Papendorp called for a motion to dispense with the reading of last year's minutes. Lee Adler seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Elaine Hill

In Elaine's absence, Wendes read prepared remarks from Elaine Hill. A summary follows.

Elaine is honored to have served as President during the 2011-2012 church year. She is appreciative of the talent and expertise that her fellow Board members brought to the table, and especially grateful for all the contributions from volunteers, members, and friends of the church. We have a Board that is willing to lead and to serve. She has learned valuable lessons along the way and expressed special thanks to Jeff and Kate Briere, our departing Minister and Director of Music.

Wendes added that within the past few days our search for an interim minister concluded, and that the Rev. Jennie Barrington will be coming to Chattanooga from the UU Church in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. She will begin her ministry here on August 19th.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Presented by George Helton

- At the end of April our income was 103% of what we had budgeted for that period; our expenses were 97% of the budgeted amount; our operating income was \$9,120 more than our expenses through the end of April.
- May & June are typically not high income months; we are not yet assured of a year end surplus.
- The board has done a good job of keeping the expenses lagging behind our income.
- He expressed his appreciation to Daidee Springer, Lynna Ruth Standridge and Chris Tregaskis for keeping the books in such good order
- The endowment has regained much of the ground it lost during the recession; at the end of April 2012 it was at roughly \$55,521, nearly the same as last year.

The proposed budget for 2012-2013 was reviewed, and there were questions.

- Roger Davis asked why we have taken out earthquake insurance for the first time. George and Frank explained that earthquake coverage is only part of a \$400 rider that protects building contents and equipment, which had been undervalued. And earthquakes do happen in this area; they are sometimes strong enough to be felt.
- Richard Ralston asked how the interim minister's salary will compare with Jeff's, and Daidee said it would be the same.
- John Beck observed that we appear to be short on pledges and wanted to know how we could fulfill our "dream budget" that way. George said that pledges have increased by \$13,000 – not as much as hoped. However, rent from the United Church of God can be used to make up the shortfall – this is money we have already received from them, not money we expect (this in response to Mary Hunter's question about what would happen if the UCOG decided to stop renting, as they did a couple of years ago). Lee Adler asked how sure we are of the UCOG staying with us. We do not have them under any sort of long-term contract but they have agreed to give us 3 months' notice if they leave. We also have the option of accessing some restricted (savings) accounts. In any case, we will be able to fully fund the budget.
- Fred Wright asked about our endowments, and whether we are investing in socially responsible companies. George said that 30% or more of our stock funds are in socially responsible holdings. A large part of our investments are in bond funds. The mix protects us from a lot of the market fluctuations.
- Susan Kennedy asked about the increase in UUA dues; Daidee explained that this is due to a slight uptick in our membership figures. Charlotte Davis asked how members are counted; Daidee said they are tallied as individuals, not families.

It was moved to adopt the proposed budget; Mary Hunter seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Maurine Olin presented the nominees for next year's Board of Trustees and Nominating Committee. Some of the titles have changed, due to the new By-Laws.
- The slate of candidates for the Board of Trustees are: Frank Caperton as President-Elect; Jim Welborn as Recording Secretary; tom kunesh as VP of Religious Education, Nicky Ozbek as VP of Congregational Life; and Diane Reed as VP of Ways and Means. VP of Outreach Ministry and Treasurer-elect are two positions that have not yet been filled. Nominations are welcome at any time.
- The Nominating Committee made a motion to accept the slate of nominees for next year's Board of Trustees. Martha Berry seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The current **Nominating Committee (2011-2012)** consists of Daidee Springer, Linda Park, Maurine Olin, Jerry Smith, Jim Welborn, and Rich Dwyer.

For **2012-2013**, Daidee, Linda, Maurine and Jim will be rotating off, and the committee will consist of Jerry Smith, Rich Dwyer, Catherine Long, Tacie Overbeck, and Charles Wright. There is one vacancy.

Charlotte Davis made a motion to accept the slate of nominees for next year's Nominating Committee. David Reed seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Minister's Report – Jeff Briere

- Jeff reported that this year we have had a record number of visiting ordained speakers, giving us an unprecedented level of diversity.
- The R.E. program has been outstanding this year and continues to attract families. There is one family that comes all the way from Tullahoma. We still have a problem with R.E. closing down one Sunday a

- month due to lack of classroom volunteers. He reminded us that there is only one place to find these volunteers, and that is our congregation – in other words, us.
- Jeff commended the Small Group Ministry program, saying that the service projects done by the groups serve as an excellent model for the congregation as a whole.
- The music program has been strong, and an important part of the worship.
- Chris Tregaskis brings great skill and a professional attitude to her job; if she could work more hours, all the better.
- Jeff asked us to support the Rev. Barrington and reminded us that we are a bright spot for liberal religion in southeastern Tennessee.

Wendes Jones, VP of Development

- Wendes described the recent changes in the church's organizational structure, and suggested that we familiarize ourselves with them, so that we will be able to approach the right people for projects and ideas. In spite of the new functions and the very real sense of excitement we are feeling now, we still don't have enough people to fill these positions and keep things running at a peak.
- Personnel and Committee on Ministry are newly functioning and doing good work.
- Our Policy & Procedures Manual has been completely revamped and updated making it a valuable tool for leadership.
- Communications has provided links to an online church calendar and our Bylaws.
- Charlotte Davis asked if we have something in place to keep people without internet access in the loop. Wendes said that copies of the nUUsletter are available and can be copied. Wendy Sapp added that the month's calendar of events is also in the nUUsletter. The weekly E-blast is reproduced as the announcement sheet included in the Order of Service each Sunday.

Yvonne Derrickson, VP of Programs

- Yvonne expressed appreciation for the support she has received from the Board and the congregation, since assuming her responsibilities in the middle of the year.
- Great credit is owed to the individuals who stepped up almost at the last possible minute to create our 60th Birthday event. Special thanks were expressed to Linda Helton and Helen Solomon.
- Art on the Walls, under the direction of James Joyner, has proved to be an important worship enhancement. Our music program has grown by leaps and bounds, thanks to Kate Briere.
- The Fellowship Committee has done well with Stephanie Polen and Dale Elmblade. Sandra Vanden Branden assumed responsibility for the Adventures in Dining program, which is doing very well.
- Next year, VP of Programs will be known as VP of Congregational Life Ministry, and Nicky Ozbek will be serving in that capacity. We hope that the Pastoral Care committee will carry on the good works of the Caring Committee, with enhancements. As always, these important services cannot be taken for granted; they can only continue if people step up and volunteer.

Eric Papendorp, Religious Growth & Education

- Eric reported that 51 children are enrolled in R.E. classes, with an average attendance per week of 29. Eric expressed special thanks to Kay McCurdy, whose work has made Eric's job much easier.
- The kids have been heavily involved this year in service projects, both for the church and the community at large.
- Rich Dwyer asked if we could consider a 9:30 a.m. service in addition to the 11:00 one, to include the children so they would have a greater sense of belonging in the congregation. Eric said this has been discussed many times. Wendes said that our incoming interim minister reportedly has some experience with this and may be able to help us launch it. Kay McCurdy added that Sue Sinnamon from the UUA had also offered, a few years ago, to help us set up such a program, but did not get enough support. It might be possible to try again, but a task force would have to be put together, as always when a new enterprise is being considered.

Frank Caperton (Vice President of Ways and Means)

- Frank expressed great appreciation for the congregation's outstanding response to the dream budget. Nearly half the pledges that are in reflect an increase over last year. Some of the increases are dramatic. He made a final plea for anyone who has not yet turned in a pledge card to do so.
- The best part of the dream budget was the investment in training for lay leaders, which should give us a solid basis for future growth.

- We were able to budget significant salary increases for the Director of Religious Education and the Music Director, as well as pay raises for the church administrator, nursery and janitorial worker.
- There were some unexpected expenses, most notably removal of downed trees and dumped tires, after which we also installed a fence to prevent further such littering. Paul Adler and Ron Pasch received particular thanks for their hard work in keeping up the building and grounds.
- The Endowment Committee benefited from a bequest of \$2,000 from Dottie Antman. The Committee, under the leadership of David Reed, George Helton and Buck O'Rear, allocated \$1,000 to send representatives to district training this spring.
- Frank also expressed gratitude to everyone who stepped in when his health prevented him from maximum involvement in the stewardship campaign.

OLD BUSINESS

- The biggest Old Business item was the change in the By-Laws, which began with discussion at this time a year ago.
- Skip Stevens expressed appreciation to everyone involved in putting together our Dream Budget.
- There was also a round of appreciation for the Committee on Ministry, who reminded us that June 10th is Jeff and Kate's last day at UUCC, and that we will have a reception for them after the service.
- Kay McCurdy offered thanks to Tom Kunesh, Nancy Anderson, Anne Johnson, Eric Papendorp, Marge and Ron Pasch for keeping the building and grounds in such good condition.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mary Hunter expressed frustration at our assignment to the Southeast District. Distance-wise, we would do better in the Mid-South District, which currently includes middle Tennessee, as well as Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi. Many Southeast District events take place hundreds of miles away, and the highway system does not provide much in the way of access. We are isolated as a result. Wendes said she would bring this up to Elaine Hill, and that Elaine would probably propose a task force to explore the possibility of changing our district affiliation.

At 1:35 pm, Eric Papendorp moved that we adjourn; Martha Berry seconded, and the motion carried.

Submitted by
 Elaine Watkins for Miranda Cagle
 Recording Secretary to the Board of Trustees