

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH of Bloomington, IN

Meeting of the Congregation, 12:30pm, December 12, 2002

Connie Loftman, President of the Board of Directors, welcomed the Congregation to the meeting.

Rev. Barbara Carlson and Rev. Mary Ann Macklin gave the opening words-a paired reading of "Deep Listening."

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Chalice lighting by Connie Loftman.

The meeting was called to order by Connie Loftman. A roster of 331 members (attached) was circulated for signatures to determine if we had a quorum of 10 percent of the membership (33 members)-64 members signed the roster. Guy Loftman was Parliamentarian and Projectionist.

1. PRESENTATION OF BUDGET LINE ADJUSTMENT PROPOSAL: =20

Andrew Appel, Church Treasurer, presented the proposal to increase the Custodial Services budget line by \$1,500. He explained that with the increased use of the facilities, there has an increased need for custodial services. He noted that the 2002-03 total budget is \$332,900.

The 2002-03 approved deficit is \$20,000 (will increase to \$21,500 with approval of this adjustment). Operating Reserves through 2001 is \$40,254.08. The approximate 2001-02 Operating Budget deficit is \$4,000.

Projected 2002-03 Actual Deficit will be from -\$8,000 to -\$10,000. We will be taking approximately \$12,000 from Operating Reserves already for approved uses. An additional \$1,500 is being requested for Custodial Services. The 2002-03 budgeted Custodial Services line is \$9,330 (\$743 per month). Actual cost is averaging \$927 per month (\$11,124 per year) due to heavy building use (approximately 15% above projected use). The popularity of the building is good, but cleaning costs were underestimated. We need the approval of the additional funds to assure the building can be maintained properly.

It was asked who is causing the additional need for cleaning. The answer was both outside users and church functions. It was also asked if outside people are paying enough.

John Dessauer moved that the Custodial Services line for the 2002-2003 fiscal year be increased by \$1,500 for a total of \$10,830, and that the Total Budget Deficit reflect this \$1,500 for a total deficit of \$21,500. Joan Bennett seconded the motion. Motion passed by voice vote.

2. PRESENTATION OF TEN PERCENT OF COLLECTION PLATE PROPOSAL:

Jackie Hall, from the Social Justice Coordinating Council, presented the proposal to set aside ten percent of non-pledge money from the Sunday collection plate to be given to local service organizations or projects (see attached supporting documents) and gave a history of other UU congregations who have implemented this proposal. She stated those congregations have seen an increase in Sunday collection plate amounts above the ten percent to be set aside. We currently have \$10,000 budgeted for the collection plate. Over a year, this proposal would

mean about \$1,000 per year. She stated that SJCC would like to create a process for the Congregation to nominate agencies to which the funds will go. She noted that it works better if a larger amount can be given to one agency rather than diluting it by giving to more than one agency. The three agencies SJCC has nominated for the first donation are Monroe County United Ministries, Head Start, and Community Kitchen of Monroe County. Jackie stated that this is not meant to be a competition between nominated recipients but an opportunity for the congregation to be involved in the process and the choice. She suggests that at the Spring Congregational meeting there could be an agency chosen for the next fiscal year. =20

Jackie Hall moved to approve the Stewardship Committee and the Social Justice Coordinating Council proposal that the congregation set aside ten percent of non-pledge money from the Sunday collection plate to be given to local service organizations or projects. Andrea Murray = seconded.

Discussion followed:

- \* Ed Robertson asked if a non-local agency might be considered as a recipient of the funds, for instance, the UU Service Committee.
- \* Lois Zimmerman stated that she supports this wholeheartedly but suggests that the funds be divided among the three nominated agencies.
- \* Cookie Lynch spoke in favor of the motion and stated that since we are a tax-free property we need to contribute money to the community.
- \* Ed Robertson stated he wants to define the "larger community."
- \* It was stated that we should lead the nominating and selection process = determine the agency, and that this proposal, if approved, would begin = January 1, 2003.
- \* Jean Knowlton asked, since we were talking of a budget deficit, what = if this causes less money to be collected each Sunday? Jackie Hall = stated that most congregations have had an increase in plate = collections. She also stated the proposal could always be revoked if we = do get less money. =20
- \* Bill Lynch stated that we need to become informed about local = agencies.
- \* Arda Landergren stated that this is for the first six months and that = we should start it and see what works. She further stated that this is = a new idea, and we need to be flexible and make change where needed.
- \* Pat Aungst suggested that we might target a specific program or = project with an agency.
- \* Barb Schwegman stated that we need to make sure the timing of the = budget and proposal are clear.
- \* Harlan Lewis stated that there are two issues here: first the = possibility of not meeting our own collection plate expectations, and = second, this should not be used to increase collections from the = congregation in an unreasonable way. Harlan Lewis proposed an amendment = to the motion on the floor that all funds in excess of the budgeted = plate amount go to the agencies. Barb Schwegman seconded. =20
- \* Jean Knowlton suggested that it be 20% of the plate and not all of = that above the budgeted amount.
- \* Lloyd Orr stated his opposition to the amendment.
- \* Walt Owens stated that he sees administrative difficulties with the = amendment.
- \* Sylvia King stated that we need continued education on ten percent = from the plate going to an agency.
- \* Ed Robertson spoke against the amendment.

\* Harlan Lewis stated that the money could be accumulated and given at the end of the year. He also stated that he thinks 10% is smaller than it could be and that it's not a great deal of money--let's give more!

There was a voice vote on the amendment, which failed. Guy Loftman stated that there was no need to ask for the number of abstentions.

There was a voice vote on the original proposal motion, which passed.

\* Jackie Hall stated that the SJCC would like to propose that for the last half of the fiscal year that one agency from the list gets the donation. A process should be developed for the period January to June.

\* Ruellen Fessenbecker stated that one choice might be to split the funds among agencies, but we need to see the proposals first and then make the decision.

\* Ed Robertson suggested that the SJCC might make the decision.

\* Pat Aungst proposed an amendment that the SJCC make the decision of what agency should receive the funds. There was a voice vote on the amendment, which failed.

\* Jackie Hall stated that SJCC wants the congregation to be involved in the selection process.

\* Al Strickholm said that the Congregation should be empowered to make the decision.

Back to discussion of the original motion, there were the presentations on the three agencies nominated by SJCC. Carol Parks gave information on the Community Kitchen and the interview she had with Julio Alonso, Director. (See attached document.) Beth Hollingsworth gave information on Monroe County United Ministries (MCUM) and the interview she had with Mary Reinhold, Director. Lloyd Orr pointed out that we already donate money to MCUM from the Christmas Eve Service and the Holiday Food Baskets. Rev. Barbara Carlson stated that many churches give to MCUM, and that we are not the highest giver! Glenda Breeden gave information on the Head Start Program provided by Julia Dadds, Director. (See attached copy of email.)

Harlan Lewis asked what the difference was between MCUM and Head Start. Cindy Port stated that Head Start can serve for two years only and serves more kids, while MCUM serves 2-5 years. Head Start receives Federal funds.

There was a vote on the process for selection of the recipient agency, which passed. =20

Connie asked if there is a designated plate offering, would ten percent still be taken for this agency. The answer was yes.

There was a hand vote between the three agencies. The count was as follows: Community Kitchen 18, MCUM 23, and Head Start 13. Thus, MCUM was selected as the agency to receive the 10% funds.

Elizabeth Lion commended SJCC for a job well done on this proposal.

1. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Connie Loftman read her report to the Congregation (see below). =20

"My report today is concerned with our Co-Ministry and our congregational growth. As many of you know, this marks the first year of

our Co-Ministry. Our ministers, Bill Breeden, Barbara Carlson, and Mary = Ann Macklin, have created a team ministry that is unique. The Church = Board is aware that our congregation has grown considerably this year = and we are in the process of creating a task force to look at our growth = and determine what plans need to be made to accommodate it. Having two = services is one of the ideas that this task force will explore. Various congregational actions have authorized the current Co-Ministry. = At its May 2001 meeting, the congregation passed the following motion:=20

Because the Board concurs with the recommendation of the Growth = Planning Committee for year-round ministry, and because Revs. Carlson, = Macklin, and Breeden have proposed a year-round, co-ministry plan that = can be afforded over the next fiscal years, the Board therefore moves = that the Congregation approve pursuing the proposal, outlined in two = letters from the Board President and discussed in meetings with the = Future Ministry Committee, that would create a year-round co-ministry = team of Rev. Carlson, Rev. Macklin, and Rev. Breeden. The Board would = appoint a Ministerial Search Committee as per Bylaw 6.1 to recommend for = consideration of the membership the Rev. Macklin as a candidate for = calling in the fall of 2001, with an anticipated start date of July = 2002. The Board would also seek to hire the Rev. Breeden for up to 1/4 = time for the 2001-2002 fiscal year and would integrate him into the = co-ministry over the next two fiscal years.=20

At its October 2001 special meeting, the congregation called the = Reverend Mary Ann Macklin to share our co-ministry. At its May 2002 = meeting, the congregation authorized the Board to increase the = Co-ministry Budget to 2.0 Full Time Equivalents, if funding became = available. I am pleased to report that the Board was able to increase = the Co-Ministry to 2.0 FTEs, thanks to a generous gift from the Women's = Alliance, additional pledges for the current year, and a refinancing of = our building mortgage.

While Rev. Bill Breeden has been hired as our minister, the = congregation has not yet had the opportunity to call him. The calling of = a minister is a process by which the minister and the congregation = decide whether to choose each other. During this process all members of = the congregation will be eligible to vote on the decision to call Bill. = While Bill has been a minister all of his life and was seminary educated = and ordained in the Disciples of Christ tradition, he also chose to go = through the rigorous process of being Fellowshiped as a Unitarian = Universalist Minister. I am happy to report that on December 5, 2002, = Reverend Breeden had his final meeting with the UUA Ministerial = Fellowshiping committee and received their HIGHEST RATING for = ministerial fellowship. In anticipation of this happy event, our Board = has appointed a Ministerial Search Committee to work with Rev. Breeden = and the congregation during his candidacy. Would the members of the = Ministerial Search Committee please come forward: Bob DeVoe, Jackie = Hall, and Harlan Lewis. They will report to you on the work of their = Committee."

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Jackie Hall spoke for the Ministerial Search Committee and stated that = the Pledge Drive will be completed first, before the Candidating Week = for Rev. Bill Breeden. The Candidating Week will be April 6-13, 2003. = On April 13, there will be a Special Congregational Meeting to vote on = calling Rev. Breeden.=09

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2. MOTION TO AUTHORIZE BOARD TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THIS MEETING:

Harlan Lewis moved to authorize the Board to approve the minutes of =

this Congregational meeting. Jack King seconded. Motion passed.

3. PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS:

\* Harlan Lewis thanked Jeffrey Huntsman, Carl Minor, and Peter Schwandt =  
for making soups for the Bazaar Caf=E9.

\* Glenda Breeden thanked everyone for being patient with her and Bill's =  
schedule. She stated that they are a team!

\* Rev. Bill Breeden commented on the affirming process in this church. =  
He stated that he felt its inclusiveness from his first time in this =  
church and that we "don't need to think alike to love alike."

MOTION TO ADJOURN by Carol Parks. Elizabeth Lion seconded the motion. =  
Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Doris F. Wittenburg,=20  
Board Secretary