

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana

Seeking the Spirit, Building Community, Changing the World

Approved **Congregational Meeting Minutes**

June 12, 2022



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Submitted by Steven Gilbert, Secretary

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Minister of Story and Ritual Report

Opening

President Stuart Yoak called the meeting to order at 2:43 p.m.

Reverends Macklin and Leite lit the chalice and delivered the opening words.

Vice President Abby Gitlitz provided guidelines for the meeting.

President Yoak introduced Parliamentarian Steve Dillon and Board Secretary Steven Gilbert.

Ministerial Reports

Reverend Mary Ann Macklin summarized events over the past year, especially commending the NEST committee for its work in keeping the congregation safe. She ended by leading the congregation in an imaginary champaign toast to salute both the past and the future of UUCB.

Reverend Emily Manvel Leite expressed appreciation for Rev. Macklin's service and discussed what it means to be a minister of story and ritual. She directed particular thanks to thoto the congregation, with se in the congregation who assisted in the Covid memorial project. (See Attachment 1).

Reverend Michele Grove delivered a video message with encouraging words about the direction of Religious Education reform at UUCB. Rev. Macklin then introduced RE Coordinator Stephanie Kimball, who reviewed the key accomplishments of Religious Education this year in Adult Religious Education, Sunday morning programming, communications, and planning for program growth and development.

Interim Minister Search

Committee Chair Drew Schrader reviewed the procedures and progress of the Interim Search Committee with culminated in the hiring of a new Interim minister. That minister, Rev. Constance Grant, appeared on video to express her anticipation of a successful two-year tenure at UUCB.

Committee and Task Force Updates

Planned Giving

Committee Chair Ann Kamman reviewed the Planned Giving committee membership and options for planned giving. She then closed by reporting that the committee plans for an event in August to thank member of the Legacy Circle, and also plans for the development of a planned giving web page within the large church website.

Green Building Report

Task Force Chair Molly O'Donnell reported that the church covered 93% of its own energy usage from 1918-21 and ranked 98 out of 100 houses of worship for energy efficiency. In the past year, UUCB received a free energy audit through the Center for Congregations, and replace two of its oldest HVAC systems with more energy-efficient models.

Special Purposes Fund Report

Andrew Appel reported that special purposes funds were used to purchase air purification system; tents and awnings for outdoor use; two video conference systems; an AV computer rebuild; music compositions through the Sue Swaney Fund; social justice grants; two high efficiency heat pumps for the church; and to cover ministerial moving expenses. Available funds decreased over the past year due to the stock market downturn, but the fund is still healthy.

Meeting Business

Quorum Report

Attendance at this meeting was 140, which well exceeded the 10% participation required by the bylaws.

25% Plate Vote

Abby Gitlitz and Board members collected ballots for the vote for the 25% plate recipient for 2022-23.

Motion to Approve Minutes

President Yoak moved that the Board be allowed to approve these congregational meeting minutes at a future board meeting. After a general second, the motion carried by voice vote.

Leadership Cultivation Committee

Motion to Approved Candidates for the Board

After introducing members of the LCC, committee chair Nicole Motz introduced its slate of candidates for the Board as follows:

- ! Stuart Yoak for re-election to a second term, but with change in role from President to Vice-President
- ! Abby Gitlitz for re-election to a second term, but with change in role from Vice-President to President
- ! Regina DiLamore for her first regular term as Secretary.

- ! Jane McLeod and Drew Schrader for their second regular terms at-large.
- ! Linda Pickle for her first regular term at-large.

Nicole moved that the congregation approve this slate of candidates for terms beginning July 1, 2023. Deb Hutton seconded. The motion carried by voice vote without dissent.

Motion to Approve Candidates for the LCC Committee

Nicole moved the congregation approved the following candidates for the LCC beginning July 1, 2023:

- ! Denise Breeden-Ost
- ! Dalton Gibson
- ! Carol McCord
- ! Michael McGregor

Sandy Churchill seconded. The motion carried by voice vote without dissent.

Finance Committee Report

Treasurer Rich Slabach reviewed the church's current financial condition and projections for the 2022-2023 fiscal year budget. At the moment the church appears to be in good condition, with projected income exceeding projected expenses for the upcoming year by just over \$12K. The congregation will be updated on the budget at its December meeting.

President Yoak moved for the general approval of the projected 2022-23 budget by the congregation, with allowance for the board and ministers to make minor modifications as needed. After a general second, the motion carried by voice vote without dissent.

Outcome of the Vote on the 25% Plate Recipient

Board Member Linda Pickle announced that the 25% Plate Recipient for 2022-23 will be the Refugee Support Network.

Departing Minister Support Committee

President Yoak moved that the congregation approve the appointment of a Departing Minister Support Committee for Rev. Macklin consisting of Frank Diaz,

Nicole Motz and Matt Zink. After a general second, the motion was approved by voice vote.

President's and Vice-President's Report

President Yoak and Vice-President Abby Gitlitz reviewed significant events and accomplishments of the past year and paid tribute to the many people who made the successes of the year possible.

Release from the Ministerial Call

President Yoak and Vice-President Gitlitz led the congregation in the recitation of a ritual release of Rev. Macklin from her ministerial obligations to UUCB after June 30. Rev. Macklin reminded the congregation that she would be absent for two to three years as is normal for a departing minister.

Adjournment

President Yoak adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

ATTACHMENT A

UU Church of Bloomington 2021-22 Spoken Annual Report Reverend Emily Manvel Leite, Minister of Story and Ritual

As we draw near the end of this congregational year and the end of Reverend Mary Ann Macklin's ministry with us, I would like to open by offering my appreciation for all that Mary Ann has brought to our community—her insights, her compassion, AND her playfulness have seen us through many years, both good ones and challenging ones, with energy and hopefulness. Mary Ann, your collegiality and support through all that we have experienced have brought me to this moment with deep gratitude and also with renewed awe for the opportunity to be present with this amazing and resilient congregation we have served together for 14 years. Thank you.

This past year has been a time of discovery for me and for all of us as we have learned together what, exactly, a “Minister of Story and Ritual” might be. I have to tell you, I have had several colleagues and congregations express envy at my title, and of the role that it uniquely identifies. I have appreciated the challenge of living into this emerging ministry focused on stories, imagery, and ritual, and look forward to the continued unfolding of this role in the interim time we will be entering together soon.

I have promised brevity in my report due to the fullness of our agenda, so although I have been honored to create and offer many stories, rituals and multigenerational services this year, along with increasing pastoral connections, I will touch on only a few things today.

We started the year considering the theme of Possibility through an exploration of the life cycle of the butterfly. We were in the midst of a time of constantly needing to respond to change, and appreciated thinking of that work as an embodiment of digging into the muddy puddle of possibility, needed for the emergence of something new.

Between November and May, we worked together to create a ritual space of witness and memory through our Covid memorial installation. By making a

physical installation documenting the enormity of the pandemic's effects, our congregation offered a sacred space for acknowledging this incredibly painful, disruptive and difficult thing that has been happening in our world. Thank you to the many of you who made the installation possible through your work and your witnessing, and to everyone for generously sharing this sacred space for several months. It was a powerful experience for many in this community and beyond.

Mary Ann and I have also done ongoing work to deepen our understanding of our ritual practice of Land Acknowledgement, and I am continuing to think hard about how to make it more meaningful and less performative as we continue that practice.

Finally, it was a highlight of my year to work with our Coming of Age group of tenth graders, who gathered after a year's delay due to Covid. You may remember their particularly heartfelt and thoughtful remarks at the coming of age service in April. Thank you to all the mentors who made that possible.

And so we have begun this journey of discovery, of an official Ministry of Story and Ritual. When I wrote it that way, it seemed to me a little bit like it could belong in the world of Harry Potter.

And I hope that is a sign that we will find ways to make a little magic together in the years to come.