

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Grand Traverse
Annual Meeting
June 7, 2015

Meeting convened: 12:25
Quorum established.

President, Marco Cabrera, checked in. He expressed a need to make the meeting joyful and asked people to express what/who made it a good year. Members offered thanks to individuals and groups.

Marco read the congregational covenant. He mentioned additions to the printed agenda. Marco summarized the Q & A session of the previous Sunday. Offered copies of minutes from last year's annual meeting.

Financial Report:

Phyllis Jessop reported that we are able to meet all the financial needs that were requested - for the first time in her 15 year tenure. There will be a surplus at the end of the fiscal year. We went over and above stewardship donations, thus able to fund things not in the budget. UUCGT now considered a well regarded employer as suggested by UUA guidelines.

Endowment Committee Report:

Price Watts and Linda Wilke - Linda explained the purpose of the committee and reported on its current actions. Price explained that we are in 2 funds - 60% bonds (Vanguard) 40% stocks (Vanguard's socially responsible investments). \$63,000 at end of calendar year. 5 month gain \$2,104. Current balance \$64,102.

Facilities sub-committee on growth:

Barbara Bloomer reported that a task force has been appointed to deal with growth issues. The sub-committee job is to start the conversation; collect information. The committee includes Joe Cook, Price Watts and Barb. They have met with the task force and will meet with chairs of various groups and report to the Board.

Richard Miller reported for the task force that we're likely to have additional parking spaces by the end of July (16 spaces). That's the limit of our space for expansion. The only other opportunity is the bottom of the hill and will be a much longer process to get approval. That could provide 25 - 28 spaces. Questions about permits were addressed.

RE report:

Sarah Montgomery-Richards

For 2014-2015 there are 23 youth and children registered. Additionally, there is the RE Lifespan program. "Lifespan Experience" is the term for the year to come. Sarah reported on hopes and plans for the RE program and the need for volunteers in the Lifespan Experience community model.

Music program:

Nancy Flanagan thanked the community and the Board and said, "We do more than just sing." Example: Bob Hicks suggested singing "Go Now in Peace" for Helen Wells. Recorded it and sent it to Bill Wells who said he was sure Helen was moved by it. Such is the power of music.

Spiritual Leader's report: (Full report available on UUCGT.org)

Rabbi Chava thanked the UUCGT community for the "opportunity to learn and worship and grow with you". She also thanked the ministerial search committee.

Highlights of her first (partial) year include holidays and members sharing their stories. Thanked problem solvers working on growth as opportunities rather than problems. Commented on formation of small group ministries: Heart to Heart, Death Cafe, Restorative Art. "The larger we get, the smaller we must become." Thanks to the Board for help and guidance; also small teams and staff.

View of the future: More hope and energy about this congregation than ever. Now as Program Size Church needs to be more realistic about what she can do.

Priorities: Appreciative inquiry. 1- restore and support Program Council. 2 - Renew congregational covenant. 3 - Re-establish our congregation as a visible witness in the broader community.

Explore what it means to be a program size church. How to maintain the fellowship feel as we grow. Expand Lifespan Education.

President's Report: (Full report available at UUCGT.org)

Marco Cabrera - Board's job this year was to survive the period of transition; solidifying all previous boards' work into policy, separating governance and ministry. Learned that this process cannot be completed in one year.

Read the Board's covenant and summarized the workings of the board: Supporting our new spiritual leader, working with Personnel Committee, which has created a volunteer position; Policy Committee - solidifying policy for clarity; Leadership Council (Program Council). Thanked Emily Mitchell for her work.

Question was asked about candidate information to aid the voting process, which was not provided this year. This issue to be referred to Leadership Development Committee for future.

Ballots collected at 1:45.

Results:

Total members voting - 94

All candidates were elected. Budget passed.

1 member abstained, saying they did not have enough information to vote

5 ballots were incomplete

2 members abstained from voting on the budget

2 members voted no on the budget

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Zerbel, secretary