

THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF MIDDLEBORO (FUUSM)
ANNUAL MEETING
Friday, June 14, 2024

FUUSM's 2024 Annual Meeting was held in the Church Sanctuary on Friday, June 14, 2024. Thirty members, 1 guest, and Rev. Peter Connolly attended the meeting.

The Congregation was notified of the meeting through FUUSM's UU Updates and the Church's website. Notice included a copy of the Warrant, the Church's Annual Report for 2023-24, a Cash in the Plate Report for 23-24, and the proposed budget for 2024--25 Church year.

President Jim Bonnar called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and provided a brief summary of the Annual Report. A reading was provided by Rev. Peter Connolly. The Congregation then proceeded to vote on the following Articles:

Article I: To accept the minutes from last year's Annual Meeting. Minutes from last year's meeting have been amended to correct the spelling of Stephen Larrett's name (which was spelled Barrett).

Motion to approve Article I made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Article II: To receive reports of the Society for the past year.

Motion to approve Article II made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Article III: To recognize the gifts of time and talent given by members who are concluding roles in the Society.

Discussion: On behalf of the members of the Society, Vi Fairweather expressed deep appreciation and gratitude to the following individuals for their longtime service to the Society:

Jim Bonnar - for his service on the Parish Committee (PC) as President, Vice-President, and clerk.

Marc MacQueen - a longtime member of the Society who is concluding his service as Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, and who also received the Elsie Gaudette Award.

Jeff Giddings - who is leaving his position as Assistant Treasurer.

Stephen Larrett - who is leaving his position as At-Large member on the PC.

Susan Sherman - who is concluding her longterm role as chair of the Building & Grounds Committee and the Green Sanctuary.

Natalie Johnson - who is concluding her role as chair of the Worship Committee.

Article IV: To elect officers and members of the Parish Committee (PC) for the coming Church year - July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025 - including President, Vice President, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and At Large (two positions). The slate of nominations for PC officers and members is as follows:

President: Jeff Giddings

Vice-President: Vi Fairweather (continuing Bob Waterman's term until 2025)

Treasurer: Stephen Larrett

Assistant Treasurer: Nancy Backus (finishing Jeff Giddings' term until 2025)

At Large: Jim Bonnar (finishing Stephen Larrett's term until 2025)

At Large: Diane Reed (two-year term)

Motion to approve Article IV made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Article V: To elect delegates (two) to the General Assembly (GA) of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) or authorize the Parish Committee to appoint these delegates.

Discussion: The Society is seeking two delegates to participate in the 24-25 GA, which is scheduled to take place June 18-22 2025. It is proposed to be a multi-platform event, with main stage in Baltimore MD. The Society covers the cost for delegates. Delegates must commit to attend all business sessions at GA and to participate in planning strategies for informing the congregation of actions and outcomes of the GA. Decisions will be made at the GA as to what the focus points of UUA will be over the next few years.

This year's GA takes place virtually June 20-23, 2024. Rev. Peter Connolly will be attending.

Motion to authorize the Parish Committee to appoint delegates to the 24-25 GA made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Article VI: To adopt a budget for the coming fiscal year, July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

Discussion: Jeff Giddings, Assistant Treasurer, distributed "FUUSM 24-25 Proposed Budget: Summary" to attendees and provided highlights and comparisons to the past year's budget. Proposed budget includes funds for visiting ministers and fundraising expenses, which had not been included in previous budgets. Additionally, \$12,000 has been added for special fund for major repairs to the building.

Marc MacQueen announced that a gift has been made to the church in the amount of \$11,000.

A member questioned how the Society is accounting for gifts received, such as this past year's gift from the Clay family, which is restricted to use for music related services and programs. Jim Bonnar responded that 20% of the Clay gift (\$20,000) has been used to renovate the Parlor, and the remainder is kept in a restricted investment fund, which currently has a balance of \$97,000.

Request was made for there to be a report on capital funds and investments submitted with the Annual Report each year.

Bill Howe, who chairs the Investment Committee, provided a brief overview of the Society's five investment funds and one endowment fund. Each year 4% of the principal has been used as income for the Society. Bill said he will be glad to provide a report on investments to the PC.

Motion to approve Article VI made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Article VII: To adopt the following as the Society's Covenant statement: "Creating a caring community is the promise of our church. To listen deeply, show compassion, build trust, and honor our differences: these things we covenant together."

Motion to approve Article VII made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Article VIII: To authorize the Parish Committee or designee to withdraw from investment funds and/or borrow funds in order to manage cash flow and/or cover unanticipated expenses during the fiscal year.

Motion to approve Article VIII made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Article IX: To address any other actions necessary for the business of the Society

Discussion:

1. Congregation expresses our sincere gratitude to our minister, Rev. Peter Connolly, for his services these past two years. He will be missed.
2. Each year, the Society grants gifts for our young members who are going on to college. Should the amount of this gift, currently \$100, be increased? Can the PC take this under consideration?
 - *Motion for PC to take under consideration the need to increase the gift amount made, seconded, and passed unanimously.*