

**The Community Church of Chapel Hill Unitarian Universalist  
Congregational Meeting Minutes  
June 12, 2016**

**1. Chalice Lighting and Opening Words**

Bill Poteat brought the meeting to order, confirming a quorum present. There were 101 members in attendance, with 16 additional voting by proxy.

Ruth Gibson opened the meeting with a reading and lighting of the Chalice.

A moment of silence was observed for the lives lost in the recent shooting at a nightclub in Orlando, Florida.

**2. Covenant**

Bill Poteat reviewed the Congregational Covenant and read aloud with the congregation.

**3. Congregational Awards**

- a. **The Al & Ann Sawyer Within These Walls Award:** This year's award is given posthumously to Bob Weston for his extensive commitment to the church through a wide variety of volunteer activities.
- b. **The Joe & Lucy Straley Beyond These Walls Award:** This year's award is given to Marilyn Alexander, who has successfully connected the Community Church with many worthy community organizations for many years.
- c. **The Gertrude Willis Lifespan Award:** This year, the award goes to two people—Laurie McDonald and Joanne Wood—for their work and leadership with the Covenant Groups for our community.

**4. State of the Church**

- a. **Membership/Enrollment** – Membership is up by approximately 10% for a total of 385, including 10 student members. Associates and average church attendance have also increased.
- b. **Lifespan Religious Education Enrollment** – Lifespan Religious Education is down across all age ranges, but some of this is due to graduation rates among youth and normal fluctuations.
- c. **Covenant Group Participation** – is up to its highest levels yet, with 11 Covenant Groups.
- d. **Choir Participation** – remains robust and involved.
- e. **Annual Pledge Drive** – Maureen O'Rourke asked members of the Annual Pledge Drive to stand for recognition. Discussed changes for this year—moving to cottage meetings, with themes of “Growing Our Garden”. Encouraged members to participate in future cottage meetings as a way to continue connecting with church members. Maureen offered her thanks to all of the volunteers—who hosted meetings, provided childcare, outreach and support of the annual pledge drive.

- 5. Endowment Committee:** Gwen Van Ark provided an update on the Endowment Fund, which began in December of 2008. The current fund value is \$160,677, up from an initial

investment of \$100,000. Noted that there was not a Request For Proposals for projects in the current year. In response to last year's proposals, we recently completed the following projects:

- a. **Project 1: Sanctuary for Dialogue:** developed a train-the-trainer model for encouraging safe, open dialogue within the church.
- b. **Project 2: Architectural Service:** provide input and recommendations for specific upgrades to the church facilities.

**Endowment Committee Membership:** the Endowment Committee moved to elect Mike Gilliom for a three-year term as a new member.

Bill Poteat called the congregation to vote.

All in favor with none opposing. Motion carried.

6. **Proposed Bylaws Changes** – Bryan Sexton introduced the recommended changes to the Bylaws. Changes were distributed to the congregation 14 days in advance of the Congregational Meeting, as required.

- a. **Motion 1: Revision to Bylaws for Membership** -- requires a response (a “pledge of record”) to the pledge campaign, beyond a simple financial contribution. Bill Poteat asked for discussion. Question asked if there was a minimum size for the pledge of record, which there is not. Also clarified the exact language being recommended.

Bill Poteat called the congregation to vote on the proposed revision.

All in favor with none opposing. Motion carried.

- b. **Motion 2: Add an Indemnification Section** – language was recommended by the UUA, and discussed with our insurer and by the Board, to protect staff and volunteers from damage claims resulting from actions taken in good faith. Reviewed the language for the congregation and asked for comments/discussion. Friendly amendment proposed to eliminate gender pronouns. Friendly amendment was accepted.

Bill Poteat called the congregation to vote on the full motion with accepted friendly amendment.

All in favor with none opposing. Motion carried.

7. **2016-2017 Budget** – Dan Hill reviewed the 2016-2017 Budget with the Congregation. Full details were submitted to the congregation in advance of the meeting, and are available for further review upon request. Highlights include increases in staff compensation; additional hours for the Membership Director; and increases in budgeting for facility maintenance and upkeep.

The Board has approved this budget and is putting forward to the congregation for an affirmation vote.

Motion made for the affirmation of the 2016-2017 Budget.

All in favor with none opposed.

- 8. Extinguish the Chalice and Closing Words** – asked for a motion to adjourn.  
All in favor with none opposing.  
Meeting adjourned at 12:27pm.