

**Unitarian Society Germantown**  
**Annual Meeting, Part 2**  
**September 21, 2013**

The Annual Meeting was opened by Board President, Tom Ott at 1pm.

Reverend Kent Matthies offered opening words.

A Lifetime Achievement Award presented to Sarah West by Tom Ott.  
Congregational Award for Susan Doering will be given at another time.

As required by church by-laws, a member other than the Chairman of the Board is required to chair the annual meeting. Bill Dowdall was unanimously elected to this position, Treva Burger was meeting secretary.

Bill Dowdall called the meeting to order.

The instructions for the election to the Nominating Committee were given, and ballots were distributed and then collected.

Finance Committee Report given by Charles Gabriel, he reviewed Income and expenses in the 2013-14 budget. Charles cautioned that the rental commission amount of \$5700 might not be accurate. He pointed out that more than 60% of expenses are budgeted to staffing. Charles then redistributed the numbers to show that our costs are 56.1% for Administration and 43.9% for Ministry and Programs and also to show our costs per member and per pledge unit. Budget will be attached to the document.

Charles opened the floor for the questions:

Question: Is there still income for MLK Jr day? Answer: Yes. The budget was compressed so that the discussion could fit into the time allowed.

Question: Is there any consideration for having a supplemental fund drive to make up the difference.  
Answer: At this time, no, but it's a good idea.

Question: Does this budget reflect the Board's line by line reduction of the budget? Answer: Yes.

Question: Is the budget online? Answer: It will be put on the website.

Question: Is this a one year deficit or can we expect to deal with this every year? Do we need to be thinking differently about pledging, etc.? Answer: Seems to be a structural problem that we have had to face every year.

Statement: Tom Ott wants to express appreciation to Buildings and Grounds for the work they have done to reduce our expenses.

Question: These are the budget numbers, and we are anticipating a deficit. In the past are we able to meet the budget or do we have to take money from somewhere else? Answer: In years past expenses have come in less than budgeted, but we often have large expenses due to the fact that we have a very old building. And we often dip into the Consolidated Investment Fund.

Statement: We should not keep dipping into investment funds, we have to live up to reality.

Statement: Reverend Kent Matthies noted that we have tremendous resources, in cash, in buildings and our grounds and in our staff. Sixteen of the last eighteen years have been deficit budgets, but they have resulted in growth and if we hadn't had deficit budgets odds are we probably would have shrunk.

Question: In the last few years, there have been tremendous changes in the facilities. Has there been an appreciation in rental income as a result of those investments? And if so, should we do more improvements to approve our rental income? Answer: Rental incomes have increased over 50%. We have long range plans for a variety things, increasing available space, improving accessibility, improving restrooms, etc.

Statement: I agree with Reverend Kent, the leadership of this church has been spending more for the last ten years, but that has led to growth in membership and growth of the church. We could do more advertising.

Statement: B&G Chair Scott Murray makes sure the property is improved in order to support more rentals.

Question: The investment account has decreased, but do we have less in the account now than we had 10 years ago? Answer: No, the account has as much in it as it did 10 years ago.

Statement from Bill Dowdall, co-chair of Stewardship Committee: we plan to start a conversation about money. What it takes to run a church where the money goes and where it comes from. We would like to increase the income level because it would be hard to cut expenses.

Statement: From 2003-2008 we grew 40%, but since then we have been stagnant. During the time, we have had a lot of instability in the RE Program. Now that we have new and excellent RE leadership, we may be able to anticipate more growth.

Statement: It would be good to emphasize, for many years money has been taken to make up a deficit and that people should know how much things cost per person so they really understand what church costs.

Statement from Reverend Kent Matthies: I cannot say enough for the staff that this budget allows us to have, we have an outstanding staff, that's a big set of resources this budget allows us to have. The religious landscape in America is changing drastically right now, church membership is going down. Joan Javier-Duval is helping to look at this. Sunday morning attendance is going to decrease, we need to anticipate how to meet people's needs going into the future. Bequests are incredibly important. Please put USG in your will because it really helps us do special things.

Bill Dowdall took a motion and second to adjourn at 1:53pm.

Members elected to the Nominating Committee are Brian O'Leary, Jessica Slivak and Debbie Ward.

Respectfully submitted,

Treva Burger