

USG 2011 Annual Meeting Minutes – May 22, 2011

Welcome/Opening Remarks: The meeting began at 12:40 PM with a welcome from Berdine Whedon, Board President. She said the meeting would cover many things that have happened in the past year as well as election of new Board members (who will begin their terms with the new Fiscal Year) and election of Nominating Committee members and General Assembly delegates.

Opening Words: Rev. Kent Matthies gave words from the Dalai Lama about love and compassion – the essence of brotherhood and sisterhood.

Call to Order: Berdine Whedon stated that the Annual Meeting is not chaired by a Board member and then asked for a motion for someone to chair the meeting. A motion was offered and seconded for Linda Brunn to chair the meeting and another motion offered and seconded for Lynne Kalish to be secretary for the meeting. Both were approved by voice votes.

Chair: Linda Brunn asked for a motion to suspend reading of the 2010 minutes. So moved, seconded, and approved by vote of those present.

Minister's Report: Rev. Matthies talked briefly about the "State of the Church". There's no "I" in "Team", he said, and the team includes all the committees, groups, Board, staff, etc. Worship services have been rated very good to excellent. Attendance and membership is now the highest in the last 30 years – average of 218 each week and about 310 members. Financial situation is best ever -- \$312,000 for 2010/11 year – and might end year with surplus which would be first time in 15 years. RE Youth program is robust – families are "checking us out".

UUA has 1,050 member congregations. USG was invited to participate in a multi-cultural project because we're one of the best in the country. Newcomers feel welcome at worship services (many multi-cultural) and multi-cultural aspects of many RE programs and social action groups. People struggling get good help from congregation. MLK Day had 450 volunteers – one of top efforts in the country.

Master Plan Implementation Team has created the new Dir. of Faith Development office and renovated the Austin Youth Lodge 2nd floor apartment. Stewardship, Membership, Small Group Ministry, et al, "all doing good church here."

Next year is Rev. Kent's 10th year and he's looking forward to it.

Board President's Report: Berdine Whedon – Board dealt with a number of weighty and convoluted issues over the past year. As we've grown, we decided to establish a Conflict of Interest policy – now in place – regarding bidding on projects, etc. Master Plan Implementation Team, chaired by Carolyn Cotton, included John Pron, Mark Bernstein, Charles Gabriel, Scott Murray, Howard Silver, Jude/Gloria Smith, and Richard

Bernat. New Faith Development office construction completed and apartment renovation done. Looking for tenant for Austin Youth Lodge apartment. The team has been working with the architects and sent out Requests for Proposals for the Sullivan Wing reconfiguration. Three responses received and being evaluated.

Thanks to Andrea Parry for analysis of Coop Nursery School's use of 1st floor Austin Youth Lodge vs other uses. Decision made to extend relationship for another 5 – 10 years.

Jude Henzy is on medical leave and Erich DuPree was hired as part-time RE consultant to help with programs. Many thanks to him and to Margaret Lea, RE Committee chair, for leading the RE committee/programs through past year so successfully.

Board member Mark Bernstein guided the budget process. Sam Gugino, Stewardship Committee Chair, will give presentation on that later. Susan Bockius updated policies and procedures.

Changes in leadership roles: Dave Bruton retires as church counsel after many years of dedicated service. Dave Deardon takes over that position. Sarah West now Chair of Administrative Council and Beth Lazer Chair of Ministries and Programs Council. Denominational Affairs Coordinator now Barbara Dowdall. After she finishes Board term, Berdine will work with Kent on Vision Statement regarding outreach, nurturing internal and external communities.

Linda Brunn: Thanked Berdine for leadership, dedication – and fun!

Ministries and Programs Council: Chair, Beth Lazer. Members: Anaiis Salles, Linda Brunn, Joe Walsh, Peter Walsh, Linda O'Gwynn, Kent Matthies, and Eli Scearce. "Ministries" – "Ministry" – "Act of serving". Is a shared ministry. Each one contributes gifts to USG community and beyond. Helping with worship, choir, service projects. "Programs" include: Worship, faith development, RE (Youth and Adult), building caring/inclusive community, social justice. Council reviews existing programs and revises/establishes more programs as needed and facilitates collaboration among program committees.

Budget: Sam Gugino – Committee met 5 times for 2011/12 year plan. \$492,000 income projected. Largest portion from pledges (67% of income). Now at \$322,000 and should finish about \$325,000 in pledges. Increased revenue from fundraising and rental income (almost double from 5 years ago). Credit to Carolyn Cotton for increased rental income.

The Consolidated Investment Fund (CIF) invested in Trillium Asset Management (socially responsible investing) and has received excellent returns. Has about \$950,000 now of which about \$500,000 is unrestricted. Building and Grounds will have an increase for next year. Largest increase will be for payback of funds for the chapel -- \$18K/year – which would come from apartment rental. Payroll, etc. is about 60% of budget – now paying staff in accordance with UUA guidelines. Budget deficit just under

\$5K for next year. Will recommend to Board establishing a Financial Development Task Force to look at more rental fees, more use of Amazon, grants, and gifts from UUA, etc. Last Capital Campaign – 2000 – 2003. Decided not to start one this year. Thanked Stewardship Committee members – Tom Ott, Bill Dowdall, Edna Jones, Paul Teti, Trevor Lalish-Menagh.

Awards: Linda Brunn introduced awards.

Hit the Ground Running Award (members for under 5 years): Berdine Whedon presented to Jenn and Carl Leiby; Linda O'Gwynn presented to Delores Hill.

Congregational Award: Recipient Carol Ceglowski (not in attendance).

Lifetime Achievement Award: 1) Presented by Berdine to Tom Schoonmaker for his many contributions to USG over more than 40 years of service to USG. 2) Presented by Mary Lee Keane to Dave Bruton who took over as church counsel from Elliot Thomas over 45 years ago. Two things most proud of are Coop Nursery School and use of Sullivan Library fund to aid in renovation of Sullivan Chapel. 3) Presented by Susan Bockius to Ingrid Brown for decades of service including 20 years administering the Sullivan Assistance Fund (funds given by Mrs. Sullivan upon her death). Money from fund income given confidentially to people with need. Ingrid will continue to administer the Nicholas Brown Memorial Education Fund (in memory of her son).

Elections: Nominees asked to stand. For Board: Tom Ott, Andrea Parry, and Leni Windle. For Nominating Committee: 3 to be elected from among Nancy Anderson, Richard Bernat, Dennis Brunn, Bruce Bryant, Hal Krieger, Carolyn Scott. GA Delegates: Barbara Dowdall and Charles Gabriel. Voting process explained. Ballots collected.

Closing Remarks: Rev. Kent – Reminded all that memorial service for Dick Eberle will be Sunday, June 19th at 1 PM. Gave special thanks to outgoing Board President, Berdine Whedon, to Susan Bockius (Vice President), and Rudy Sprinkle.

Closing words were from Steven Biko of South Africa.

Meeting adjourned at 1:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne Kalish
2011 Annual Meeting Secretary