

Thomas Jefferson District
Annual Meeting
Minutes of Meeting
May 9, 2009
Haw River State Park, NC

President Jim Key called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. and announced that Peter Kandis would function as Process Observer, and Steve Pearsall as Time Keeper.

Secretary Shari Barr announced that with fifty-three delegates registered from twenty-nine congregations, a quorum was present.

Agenda was approved with flexibility. Pat Griggs moved for acceptance of minutes from April 26, 2008. Motion carried.

Reports:

Treasurer Cyndy Bailes reported that our second external audit was performed and we are in solid financial position. Due to current economic situation, \$95,000 was transferred to CDs at minority-owned Park Sterling Bank.

Finance Cyndy reported for Martin Bauer who affirmed our financial picture is good and improving, and reported that over ninety per cent of congregations paid their APF and TJ dues. Two motions came from the Finance Committee: #1 TJD congregational per-member dues are to be rolled back to \$21 and increased to \$22 for 2010 - 2011. Motion Carried. #2 Budget \$227,891 includes \$9,000 deficit, but is based on a conservative estimate of 80% dues collection and includes expense reductions. Motion carried with one abstention.

Nominating Committee Sally reported on the ongoing development of the leadership/nominating process, as individuals are asked to self identify as being willing to serve, which helps to avoid an "inner circle" of leadership. She asked all present to spread the word for people to apply to serve as officers or on district committees. Candidates for election were asked to stand. There were no nominations from the floor and the slate was unanimously elected, including Gracia Walker (Secretary), Cyndy Bailes (Treasurer), Rev. Jennifer Ryu (Director), Pam Whistler (Director), Andy Reese (Director), Georgeanne Stafford (Nominating Com) and Rev. Alex Richardson (Nom Com).

By-law Jim referenced proposed bylaw change, detailed in Rainbow packet as Article XII District Trustee. Sara Jacobus (Foothills UU Fellowship) proposed changes: Sec.3c ... indicating the allocated votes cast for each candidate, and Sec.5 ...delete "Said rules...after that date." (She also noted typo/grammar errors:Sec 3d have been complied with; Sec 6 4th line shall be chosen for their experience; and Sec 8 2nd line no more than one four year term and.) Nancy Henley (Eno River) proposed that the last sentence from Sec 2c be added to Sec 2a. Motion carried as amended.

President Jim reported on the Board's move toward the model of policy governance, seeing governance as a spiritual practice, as we work to heal the spirit and mend the world. This now involves recasting our values and vision and mission statements in alignment with UUA's recently adopted end statement, created through the appreciative inquiry process with input from thousands of UUs. On efforts to change the name of our district, Jim reported that this process was delayed after the Knoxville shooting, but is underway again. We know there is pain from the last time this was tried. The Board is still examining the process, and hopeful that the new governance policy and an organic name change process will be parallel developments.

District Executive Annette reported that the tragedy in Knoxville occupied much staff attention early in the year, and made clear that our message of love and acceptance cannot be silenced. She reported that we are among the fastest growing of our nineteen districts, and that we realize some of that comes from the movement of UUs from the Northeast to the Southeast. She pointed out the challenge of reaching out to long term local residents in our communities. Annette reported on the new web site, asking that events for calendar be submitted to Glenn, and called attention to the three-color posters displaying new logo and upcoming important dates. She also recommended the new training to be provided by Southland Leadership School at the Mountain July 19 - 24.

Faith Development Rev Sue Sinnamon thanked all for letting her serve and for openness to youth development and multigenerational worship. She reported Leadership School will also be offered for youth aged fourteen to eighteen.

Trustee Anna Olsen thanked UUs for home hospitality, as she has visited forty of our sixty-three congregations, and expressed her desire to visit them all. She reported on the End Statement adopted by the UUA, which resulted from input at GA in 2007 and 2008, when we were asked to dream what congregations we

wanted. In that process, three values emerged: wonder, transformation and connection. Annette invited us to consider what is the ministry of our congregation and what are the goals; what will we accomplish.

Annual Program Fund Pat Griggs reported on her mixed emotions, giving a final report, as her term concludes in June, and welcomed Linda Nelson as her successor. She referenced her report in the Rainbow Papers, and said it has been a privilege to serve since 1993, and watch congregations grow and become healthier.

New Business

Resolution The Rev. Jeanne Pupke offered "Recognizing that excellence in governance is a desired goal of the Thomas Jefferson District and that use of the methods of policy governance may yield improvements in transparency, accountability and responsiveness, be it resolved that the delegates of this district authorize the Board of the T J District to conduct itself under the practices of policy governance, thereby gaining experience about its advisability, suitability and effectiveness for our district leadership." The Rev. Joan Schneider offered an amendment to the resolution: "If in the process, the Board finds policy governance in conflict with bylaws, the board is authorized to set aside those bylaws." The resolution was accepted by majority vote, with two abstentions.

Diversity Rev Sally White, as Chair of Nominating Committee, reminded us that the Nominating Committee looks for diversity in leadership, to include geographic, congregational, generational, economic, gender, sexual orientation, race, across a broad variety of categories.

RE Level 5 Pam Lepley (Winston-Salem) and Fran Clark (Waynesboro) were commended on their completion of five weekends of training.

Passing of Chalice Pam Whistler invited Blacksburg, VA delegates to carry our District chalice home, to be relit at our next meeting there.

Process Observation

Peter Kandis commented on the Annual Meeting process, that good humor is a hallmark of vitality. He appreciated the insistence on the use of a microphone to assist hearing. On our voting process, he applauded moving through expeditiously but requested that process be slowed a little. He noted clear concise presentations, and that the group appeared engaged until near the end when some side conversations occurred.

Awards Presentations

- Communication Council Chair Susan Holahan recognized Annual Newsletter Award recipient as UUC of the Lowcountry in Bluffton, SC, which was accepted by Linda Nelson.
- RE Committee Chair Kate Beasley presented the Laurel Amabile Award to Tandy Scheffler, DRE of Oak Ridge.
- Jim Key presented the District President's Award to Pat Griggs, Johnson City, TN.
- Eric Kaminetsky was recognized for his work in intergenerational Worship.
- Three congregations received Congregational Excellence Awards: UUF of Columbia, SC was recognized for their work to clarify structure and nurture community. Tennessee Valley UUC and Westside UUC were recognized for their response to tragedy, demonstrating that they are communities of love.
- Jim presented the Distinguished Service Award to Myrtle Hepler.
- Denise named Roxana White (Hendersonville) as recipient of the Unsung Hero Award.
- Pat recognized the following recipients of Certificates of Appreciation: Dr Irwin Kagan (Hendersonville), Pat Mohr (Columbia), Ann Johnson (Columbia), Dick Hofer (Hendersonville), Judy Remsburg (UUF of Peninsula) and Joan Hawthorne (UUF of Franklin).

Jim reminded all that Annual Meeting next year will be at St Helena's Island, SC (near Beaufort).

Jim adjourned the meeting at 11:25, with a reminder to return after a ten minute break to view video presentations on UUA presidential candidates the Rev. Laurel Hallman and the Rev. Peter Morales.

Recorded by:

Shari R. Barr