

Annual Meeting has record attendance
Name-change motion fails
Immigration resolution passes
Four board members elected

The Thomas Jefferson District Annual Meeting was held on May 1 at Penn Center, St. Helena Island with record attendance. Registration totaled 200 adults and 19 youth. There were 146 delegates, ministers, and board members eligible to vote representing 42 congregations, with 114 votes recorded.

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Beaufort volunteers were at the top of their game in hosting the event. Moreover, the Penn campus provided a beautiful and historic backdrop that introduced UUs to Laura M. Towne's 39-year support of the formerly enslaved Africans of the SC Sea Islands and reminded them of Clara Barton's work on the island in the aftermath of the Sea Island Hurricane of 1893.

The name-change proposal by the Board of Directors did not garner the super majority required for approval, failing by 3 votes. Of the 114 delegates voting, 73 or 64% favored changing the name and 41 or 36% favored retaining the name Thomas Jefferson.

An immigration resolution (see www.tjdistrict.org) proposed by the board passed with only one negative vote.

Four board members were elected unanimously: Jim Key, President, and Denise Rimes, Vice-President, for second two-year terms; and the Rev. Ann Marie Alderman and Nato Hollister, Directors, each for a first three-year term.

Three candidates were elected unanimously to the Nominating Committee: Lois Cavanaugh-Daley, Myrtle Hepler, and Anna Olsen.

In other business, the new Policy Manual was ratified, minor by-law changes were enacted, and the budget for 2010-2011 was accepted.

Personal comments about the meeting may be found on my blog <http://www.tjdistrict.org/DistrictPres/> , also accessible from the home page of the TJD website <http://www.tjdistrict.org/>.