

Annual Meeting of the Thomas Jefferson District of the UUA

Minutes of the meeting

Penn Center, St. Helena Island, SC

May 1, 2010

President Jim Key called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM with a reading by Ann Peart.

The Secretary officially certified the Quorum and the President reported that over 219 people attended with 120 delegates registered and 42 of 62 congregations represented.

Process observer, timekeeper, parliamentarian, and tellers were announced.

Changes in the printed Agenda were noted with the Resolution on Immigration moved to the afternoon session.

A motion to approve the Agenda with flexibility was passed unanimously by a show of raised delegate cards.

The Secretary made a motion to accept the minutes of the 2009 annual meeting and it was passed unanimously by a show of raised delegate cards.

President's Report

Jim Key spoke to our vision and noted there were congregations that are actively practicing becoming the Beloved Community by reaching out to marginalized and historically oppressed groups and youth and young adults. The district leadership challenge is to improve our linkage to our sources of authority and accountability.

Vice-President's Presentation of Awards

Denise Rimes

The Laurel Amabile Excellence in Religious Education was presented to Kate Beasley, outgoing chair of the RE Committee.

The District President's Award was presented to Carol Wayne and the Lay Pastoral Care Committee of First Unitarian Universalist Church of Richmond, VA.

The Distinguished Service Award was presented to Rev. Clark Olsen of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Asheville, NC.

The Congregational Excellence Awards went to Rick and Georgie Seals of Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and to Virginia Wilson of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Franklin, NC.

The Outstanding Newsletter Award went to the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Beaufort, SC.

Treasurer's Report

Cyndy Bales reported that our District continues to be on a very solid financial footing. She spoke of the great work the Chalice Lighters Fund has done this past year and how necessary it was for most of our congregations to continue the work of enlisting Chalice Lighters.

Finance Committee Report

Martin Bauer presented the Budget for next year (2010-2011). The dues for the next period remain at \$21 but will rise to \$22 for fiscal year 2011-2012. The motion to accept the budget was approved unanimously by a show of raised delegate cards.

District Executive's Report

Annette Marquis introduced Donna Sequeira as our new Social Justice Coordinator and recognized Sue Sinnamon's work. She mentioned the excellent work of the Religious Education Committee and the OWL Trainers and those who work on youth activities. The Chalice Lighters fund has given almost \$80,000 to congregations this year. The Staff of the District has been reaching out to congregants using video conferencing, Face book, Twitter, the website and webinars.

Trustee's Report

Rev. Jake Morrill spoke on taking the gamble of working with the youth of our congregations, as he is a product of that program. This District is lucky because of the work of UUA Trustee-at-large, Rev. Jeanne Pupke from First UU Church of Richmond, and the work of Jim Key, who is recognized as a 'leader among leaders'. The work of the UUA began a discussion of reverence several years ago, and Jake believes we are now in a discussion of

the practice of reverence and need to have continued dialogue about reverence in all areas of our lives. We are a system of change moving towards peace and justice. Jake encouraged feedback from all congregations.

Nominating Committee

Rev. Sally White presented the Slate of Candidates.

Jim Key, for a second two-year term as President

Denise Rimes, for a second two-year term as Vice President

Rev. Ann Marie Alderman for a first three-year term as Director

Nathan Hollister for a first three-year term as Director

Lois Cavanaugh-Daley for a first term on Nominating Committee

Myrtle Hepler for a second term on Nominating Committee

Anna Olsen for a first term on Nominating Committee

The slate was accepted unanimously by a show of raised delegate cards.

New Business

Jim Key called for the Motion to change the name of the District. Peter Kandis read the Motion. Fred Anderson read the rules of debate. Twenty minutes was allowed for Pro and Con Statements, with a two-minute limit per person.

A Motion to Extend Debate was made and seconded. The Motion failed to gain the required 66.7% required to extend.

The vote was called with 73 votes in favor (64%), 41 opposed (36%), failing to carry by 3 votes.

Denny Davidoff spoke on the Scholarship Fund for Meadville Lombard Seminary. Spoke of the need for multi-cultural work and the importance of celebrating the diversity among our Ministry. Denny will speak around the District in order to raise money for this goal.

Process Observation

Andy Reese reported that our process went well, that passionate but focused opinions on both sides of the aisle were expressed. Andy noted that passionate calls of "Good" at the results of the vote were inappropriate. Andy said that we appropriately considered the underrepresented groups, using multi-generational, multi-cultural, and multi-racial lens during the meeting. Now is the time to go forward and work together for the common good.

Meeting recessed at 12:30 pm with a plan to reconvene in the afternoon.

Meeting returned from recess at 4:39PM.

President Jim Key called the meeting from recess at 4:39 PM.

Meeting called to order at 4:39

Jim Key called for the **Resolution on Immigration**. Andy Reese read the Motion and Fred Anderson read the rules of debate that were the same as the name-change debate.

With no one speaking for or against the resolution, the vote was called, and the motion carried by a show of delegate cards with one delegate opposed.

By-laws Friendly amendment to Art. VI, sec. 7 changing the composition of the executive committee when one member was unavailable or was recused was challenged for ambiguity. Denny Davidoff provided clarifying language: after 'voting member' should read 'two of whom are duly elected officers'. The amended motion was made by Fred Anderson and the by-law change was approved unanimously by a show of delegate cards.

By-laws Changes- Executive Committee [Art. VI, sec. 7] Board delegated power [Art. VII, sec. 7] District Executive responsibility [Art. VIII, sec. 4] changing minor wording to support Policy-based governance where proposed and the by-law changes were approved unanimously by a show of delegate cards.

Policy Manual

Denise Rimes reported how the board had moved through Policy-based governance discussions and prepared a District Policy Manual. The purpose of the manual is to define roles and responsibilities of the District Executive and the Board. Personnel and financial guidelines are yet to be written.

The motion to have the Delegates ratify the Policy Manual was brought to the meeting in a spirit of transparency, as it does not need approval of the Delegates.

Jim explained the collegial and covenantal experience the Board went through as we wrote and revised the policy manual.

The manual was approved unanimously by a show of delegate cards.

Steve Pearsall and Andy Reese were recognized as they retired from the Board

Process Observation - Andy said the afternoon was a less passionate meeting. Additionally, given that we have a tendency to lose focus with sidebar conversations in the afternoon; it was refreshing to observe that we had not done that. That shows a deep respect for our colleagues. This is important, holy, and spiritual work, we are responsible to each other, and to the faith we represent.

Annual Meeting was adjourned at 5:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted by

Gracia Basham, Secretary