**First Unitarian Society of Chicago**

**182nd Annual Meeting of the Society**

Sunday, May 21, 2017 11:30 a.m.

Parish Clerk Evelyn Johnson reported that a quorum was present at 11:35 a.m.

Rev. David Schwartz offered opening words while Rev. Teri Schwartz lit the chalice.

President Joan Pederson called the meeting to order at 11:40, presented an overview for presenting motions and participating in discussion, and noted that the meeting was constrained to end no later than 1:00 p.m.

The Agenda was accepted as printed. (Motion: Bette Sikes; second: Beverly Bennett)

Minutes of the 181st Annual Meeting of the Society, May 22, 2016, were approved without objection. (Motion: Richard Pardo; second: Finley Campbell)

The Senior Co-Ministers led the congregation in remembering the members who have died since the last annual meeting: Rev. Neil Gerdes, Judy Moore, Rev. Viola Moore, and James McLarty-Lopes.

The congregation extended greetings to our Minister-at-Large, Rev. David Arksey.

Reports were offered, most of them in written form in the 2016 Annual Report. Oral reports were offered, augmenting written ones.

* The Senior Co-Ministers reported the enrollment of twenty-three new members since the last Annual Meeting, a fifteen percent rise in membership. The Capital Campaign has been initiated. Pledges have increased by seven percent. The Religious Education program sponsored a Harry Potter Camp. The Christmas Eve service recorded the highest attendance in recent memory.
* Anita Orlikoff, outgoing Chair of the Social Justice Council, reported that Social Justice work has been growing in our church, and that while this was the end of her three years as Chair, she was very excited about the people nominated to succeed her as Co-Chairs. Aware that most members only know a small amount of the Council’s work, she challenged church members to really get to know what it is doing in order to better introduce it to newcomers interested in social justice issues.

Joan Pederson introduced current trustees, council chairs, and members of the Nominating Committee, then all of those nominated by the Nominating Committee, and asked for nominations form the floor. There were none. All positions were for one year beginning July 1, 2017, except for the three trustees, whose terms are for three years.

* Officers: Joan Pederson, President; Jim Proctor, Vice President
* Trustees: John Eatinger, Joseph Harrington
* Alternate Trustee: Christine Harrell
* Council Chairs or Co-Chairs: Betty Holcomb and Cheryl Wegner (Program Council), Mary Claire Bietila (Religious Education Council), Andrea Freerksen and Evan Freund (Social Justice Council
* Nominating Committee: Kris Barker, Lisa Christensen Gee, John Saphir

The congregation directed that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot in favor of the nominees, without objection. (Motion: Rosemary Snow; second Rev. David Arksey).

Finance Committee member Michael Grosse presented the budget proposed by the Board of Trustees for the 2017–2018 church year, beginning July 1, 2017. Discussion of the proposed budget noted satisfaction that it allowed hiring a part-time Membership Coordinator and a first-time raise for our Senior Co-Ministers and included a request but not a motion that $600 for Social Justice Council expenses be added. The 2017–2018 was approved as proposed without objection. (Items placed on the agenda by the Board of Trustees require no motion or second.)

Joan Pederson presented a proposal by the Board of Trustees to amend the Bylaws by substantially replacing Article X Fiscal Affairs and modifying the first sentence of Article XII, Section 1, concerning the Burial Crypt. The text of the amendments appears in the 2017 Annual Report beginning on page 38. The amendments were approved without objection.

The resolution that First Unitarian affiliate with Community Renewal Society was approved without objection. (Moved: Evan Freund; second: Lisa Christensen Gee)

Approved without objection.

The resolution of the Social Justice Council that First Unitarian affiliate with Chicago New Sanctuary Coalition was approved without objection. (Motion: Andrea Freerksen; second: XXX Nina?)

The resolution of the Denominational Affairs Committee concerning possible action at the 2017 UUA General Assembly concerning the proposed Eighth Principle was introduced (Moved: Finley Campbell; Second: Margaret Huyck):

Resolved: That First Unitarian Society of Chicago is opposed to the addition of the 8th Principle as proposed by the Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism Organizing Collective without the two–three year period normally required for such a change, and we further recommend to our delegates to the 2017 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association that they vote against any attempts to bypass this normal procedure.

Due to a clear division of opinion on the matter and the attendant time that would be required to address it, a motion to table the resolution was made and carried. (Moved: Jim Proctor; second: Joan Staples) *[NOTE: See minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting of June 18, 2017, where the resolution was discussed and acted upon.]*

All four members who had been duly nominated by petition were elected to serve as the society’s lay delegates to the 2017 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association in New Orleans, Louisiana on June 21–25: Marie Cobbs, Finley Campbell, Ellie Hall, and Allan Lindrup. *[NOTE: Upon learning in June that the society was entitled to only three delegates in 2017 rather than four, and that off-site delegates were not eligible to serve as alternates, Ellie Hall resigned from the delegation.]*

Marie Cobbs, on behalf of the Racial Justice Task Force of the Social Council, presented its fourth annual Multiracial Unity Award to Dr. Kenneth Christiansen for his leadership in the struggle against neo-racism as a member of the Unitarian Universalist Multiracial Unity Caucus, an active participant in Icare (a local multiracial anti-racist organization in Florida) and his useful research into the value of asset-based anti-racist/anti-oppression work. The award was accepted by Joan Staples on Dr. Christiansen’s behalf.

Joan Pederson, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, presented one of two Recognitions of Exceptional Service to First Unitarian to Anita Orlikoff for her continuous commitment to this congregation, her creative and firm leadership—particularly in serving as chair of the Program Council and then the Social Justice Council over the past several years—the depth of her knowledge and wisdom, and her warm friendship.

*[NOTE: The second recognition was presented on June 4 at the Membership Celebration to Madeiria Myrieckes for decades of embodying radical hospitality that includes and involves us all, keeping a watchful eye on the condition of our building, making sure that those of us needing care get the support they need, and helping make our light shine in this world, both figuratively and literally.]*

In other business, Vice President Jim Proctor encouraged attendees who had not yet voted to complete ballots for the four quarterly 2017-18 recipients of the Give Away the Plate program before leaving. The six nominees were **Chicago Community Bond Fund**, **Coder DojoChi**, Su Casa Catholic Worker, Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America, **Ujima Village Shelter**, and **Friends of Whittier**. *[NOTE: Electronic and paper ballots were tallied by Parish Clerk Evelyn Johnson later in the week. Names of the winning nominees appear above in bold type]*.

Rev. David Schwartz and Rev. Teri Schwartz offered closing words.

Joan Pederson adjourned the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

Kris Barker, Secretary Pro Tem

*[Approved May 20, 2018]*