

Prairie Circle Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Grayslake, Illinois

Annual Meeting Minutes
June 3, 2007

1. Jim Cubit called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. and introduced Rich Fendrych who was the moderator for the meeting. A membership count indicated there were 39 members present. This number represents a quorum (more than 20%) of the membership.

2. **2006 Congregational Meeting Minutes:** Sally Merritt requested approval of the minutes of the Congregational Meeting of June 11, 2006. John Crowley offered the following editorial change: Paragraph #4, add at the end of the last paragraph the statement "the motion to establish a church building committee passed." John moved to adopt the minutes with this change, Mike Merritt seconded the motion, and the minutes were adopted by the congregation.

3. **DRE Report:** Laura Hebert presented the Annual Director of Religious Education report. No comments were given by the congregation.

4. **By Laws Changes:** Mark Wilson reviewed the proposed by-laws changes by the board highlighting the following areas: a) section 3.03 adding that a financial contribution includes a pledge, b) defining membership status, and c) adding an article on indemnification. The following changes to these recommendations were discussed:
 - a. Section 6.02 "Authority and Responsibility": Recommended change regarding the limits of the board to use discretion when executing the budget to the plan approved by the congregation. Example given was the need to purchase additional hymnals, however, there was no line item in the 2006/2007 budget for this item. Motion by Mike Merritt to add to the last paragraph "...to do so, not to exceed 5% of the total approved budget for the fiscal year." The motion was seconded by Ralph Churchill and was passed by the congregation."

 - b. Section 3.03 "Reaffirmation of Membership": Jaime Churchill moved that the minimum pledge amount be defined in the by-laws. The board had discussed this topic because they are recommending that we join the UUA which has an annual cost of \$54 per year per member. The board had previously decided that there will be requirement for a minimum pledge of \$75 per member per year but this did not need to be included in the bylaws. Mark indicated his opinion that putting a dollar figure in the by-laws would be too restrictive. After discussion

there was no second to Jaime's motion, so the motion did not come to a vote by the congregation.

- c. Section 3.04 "Termination and Reinstatement of Membership": John Crowley recommended two changes to this paragraph:
 - a. (1st sentence) "Membership status shall be terminated (a) upon voluntary resignation by the member **or** (b) when..."
 - b. (last sentence) "Membership status **shall** be reinstated upon compliance with Section 3.03."
- d. Section 3.04 "Termination and Reinstatement of Membership"/Section 3.06 "Limitations on Membership." The congregation discussed the section in the by-laws about terminating membership of people who are considered a threat to the welfare or safety of the congregation.
 - a. After discussion of the items in paragraph c. above, Mike Merritt proposed the following change to Section 3.06 "Limitations on Membership": "**Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in these by-laws**, the Church reserves the right..."
 - b. Priscilla Scott suggested that this change be moved to Section 3.04. Section 3.06 "Limitations on Membership" will be consolidated into Section 3.04, so Section 3.06 is eliminated. Jamie Stevenson seconded Priscilla's motion, and the motion was passed by the congregation.
 - c. John Crowley recommended that the word "deemed" in the phrase "deemed to constitute a threat..." be changed to "determined." This motion was passed by the congregation.
 - d. Ralph Churchill moved to add "...by **unanimous action** of the Church Board." Jaime Churchill seconded the motion which passed by the congregation.
- e. After these motions were discussed, Priscilla Scott moved to adopt the by-law changes proposed by the board and the changes above. The motion was seconded and passed by the congregation.

5. Treasurer's Report and 2007/2008 Proposed Budget: Mark Wilson presented the 2006/2007 financial performance and there was no comment from the congregation. He then presented the 2007/2008 proposed budget. Brian Egan asked about the reason for the increase in long range planning expenses from \$2,500 in 2006/2007 to \$8,000 in 2007/2008. The answer given was that the additional cost is to facilitate further planning for a new building. Priscilla Scott asked for a clarification about UUA membership. The answer given is that the board is proposing we join the UUA but not the CmWD. Priscilla moved to adopt the 2007/2008 budget and Laura Franz seconded the motion which was passed by the congregation.

6. UUA Membership Discussion: Jim Cubit discussed the board's recommendation that PCUUC join the UUA. He indicated that there are three separate organizations and we could join one or all: a) The UUA, b) The Central Midwest District (CMWD), and c) Chicago Unitarian organization. However, the recommendation is that for the current time we join the UUA at an annual cost of \$54 per member per year. The benefits: a) help with a ministerial search when we are ready, b) financial help for a building, c) life and health insurance for staff, d) archiving. Priscilla Scott moved that we join the UUA as a fair share contributor in December 2007; Nancy LeCraw seconded the motion which was passed unanimously by the congregation.

7. Building/Barn Report: Mike Merritt gave a status report for this committee which was formed after the June 2006 congregational meeting. This committee consists of Mike Merritt, Gus Martorano, Michael Schwartz, and Jim Cubit. The committee would like additional people from the congregation to join the committee. Mike indicated there is a capacity issue at the Colby Barn. The committee has found that barns can be acquired, but PCUUC would need land and financial support for this. In particular, how large should our congregation be? Our current size is limited by the Colby Barn, and if our vision is to grow to 250 – 300 members, it is not possible to remain in the Colby Barn. The committee has conducted informal discussions with architects and PCUUC needs to develop our vision for the future. This planning effort is expected to cost in the range of \$8,000 - \$15,000. Inge Crowley indicated that the UUA could be a resource for the committee. Priscilla Scott suggested the committee talk to other congregations in the area who have recently gone through a building program such as Countryside or Elgin. Brian Egan asked about the status of discussions with Prairie Holdings. Mike indicated that Prairie Holdings has a developed parcel of land that would cost approximately \$600,000, and they have another parcel that may become available in the next 2 – 3 years. Until we do the planning, it is difficult to know if the parcel of land at Prairie Crossing is large enough to meet our long term needs.

8. Ministerial Search: Sally Merritt did some research on this issue which was shared with the congregation. There is much information on the www.uua.org website. If we decide we want to conduct a search for a minister, the congregation would need to consider items such as do we want a full time or part time minister? How much can we afford to pay? What benefits would the minister be offered? What attributes in a minister would be most important to us? Estimated cost for a full time minister would be in the \$45,000 - \$60,000 range although the cost is very negotiable. Full time minister recruitments are handled by the UUA and part time minister recruitments are handled by the CmWD. Steve King asked what consideration had been given to employing a minister prior to getting a building. Sally indicated that the board had some discussion with other churches at a recent meeting in Kenosha, and there is no consensus answer about whether the church building or the minister should come first.

9. Question and Answer Period:

- a. John Crowley indicated that the Long Range plan states the plan will be discussed and updated twice yearly by the board, and if needed, changes discussed with the congregation.
- b. Jim Cubit indicated that there are plans for a fall retreat to discuss issues. Jamie Stevenson indicated that it would be wise to have an open discussion in February prior to the pledge drive to discuss congregational needs.
- c. There was a motion to have an all congregational meeting in the fall and another one in February. The motion was seconded and passed by the congregation.

10. Election of Church Board and Nominating Committee for 2007/2008 –

Laura Franz thanked the departing church board members Jim Cubit, Nancy Lecraw, and Janice Simpson for their hard work and dedicated service. Laura presided over the election of officers for the upcoming year with the following slate of officers proposed:

Sally Merritt, President
Bruce Moon, Vice President
Mark Wilson, Treasurer
Jamie Stevenson, Secretary
Karen Chantry, Board Member
Michael Schwartz, Board Member

Nominating Committee for 2007/2008:

John Chantry
Rich Fendrych
Norine Fendrych
Laurie Cubit

There were no additional nominations from the floor. The congregation voted to approve the slate of officers and the nominating committee members.

11. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Merritt
PCUUC Secretary