

**UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP OF LONDON
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
MAY 29, 2010
Held at Trinity United Church, London, Ontario**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Paul Nesbitt-Larking at 10:10 a.m. as there was a quorum present.

2. Chalice lighting

Bev Ball said some opening words and pointed out that the flame-coloured flowers on the front table were representing our flaming chalice, as we are not in our own building today.

3. Recognition of the Ministerial Search Committee

Paul Nesbitt-Larking asked Don Ewert and Bev Ball to make a presentation. Members of the Search Committee who were present were called forward and thanked for their services to the congregation over the past two years, and each was presented with a scroll and a searchlight. On behalf of the Ministerial Search committee, Paul Nesbitt-Larking acknowledged the gratitude of the congregation.

4. Appointment of a Chair and Secretary

Motion : to appoint Paul Nesbitt-Larking as Chair of the meeting. Moved by Bev Ball and seconded by Bill Ratcliffe. Carried

Motion : to appoint Linda Lincoln as the Recording Secretary for the meeting. Moved by Riko Oka and seconded by Judith Warren. Carried.

Motion : to appoint Goldie Emerson as parliamentarian for the meeting. Moved by Rod Martin and seconded by Carol Cott. Carried.

5. Approval of the Agenda

Motion : that the Agenda be amended as follows : an item called "Approval of the Revised Covenant of the Unitarian Fellowship of London" be added to the Agenda as item 7(a), following item 7. Moved by Rod Martin and seconded by Ann Klinck. Carried.

Motion : that item 12 of the Agenda be changed from "Election of New Members of the Nominating Committee" to the following : "Election of New Members of the Board". Moved by Don Ewert and seconded by Lorraine Thomson. Carried.

Motion : that the Agenda be approved, as revised. Moved by Edna Anderson and seconded by Paul Heidenheim. Carried.

6. Approval of the Minutes from SCM on April 18, 2010

Motion : that the Minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting held on April 18, 2010 be approved. Moved by Pauline Wimbush and seconded by Edna Anderson. Carried.

7. Approval of the Minutes from the ACM on June 6, 2009

Motion : that the Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting held on June 6, 2009 be approved. Moved by Rod Martin and seconded by Alison Konrad. Carried.

7(a) Approval of the Revised Covenant of the Unitarian Fellowship of London

The Chair recognized Rod Martin and asked him to make a report.

Motion : that the revised Covenant of the Unitarian Fellowship of London be approved. Moved by Rod Martin and seconded by Bev Ball.

Discussion : Rod Martin made some brief remarks about our Covenant and the process that was used to suggest changes in the wording. The review process is necessary from time to time to

ensure the Covenant remains a “living document. “ He reported that there was thoughtful and spirited discussion with diverse opinions aired during three meetings held at the UFL. The revised Covenant’s wording was displayed on a screen at the front while Rod explained the reasoning behind the suggested alterations. Our Covenant is fundamental to a liberal religious community, as it explains how we will relate to one another when we are in community, and how we will deal with conflict when it arises.

Questions/Comments : Don Ewert thanked Rod and members of the Committee on the Ministry for their hard work. We need to help each other bring to life the ideals expressed in the Covenant. Bev Ball said that the Covenant supplements our Principles and is not a stand-alone document. Alison Konrad asked about using a third party as a mediator, if a member does not have the correct skill set to discuss a conflict directly with a fellow member. If that were the case, could the person employ the services of a third party? Rod suggested our Minister as the third party, and also thought that having a workshop on conflict resolution sometime in the fall of 2010 might be a good idea. Bill Ratcliffe spoke in favour of the motion.

The Chair asked for ayes and nays.

The motion was Carried. (see the attached revised UFL Covenant.)

8. Reports

8(a) Treasurer’s Report as presented (to be approved)

The Chair recognized the Treasurer, Riko Oka, and asked her to make a report.

Motion : that the Budget for the UFL for the fiscal year 2010-2011 be accepted. Moved by Riko Oka and seconded by Claire Van Daele.

Riko reviewed our just completed fiscal year, the operating budget surplus; the final cost of the roof replacement, and the details of the loan from Libro to finance the roof. The roof loan has now been paid in full with some of the net sale proceeds from the sale of 561 Clarke. The remainder of the sale proceeds totals approximately \$ 65,000.00, and this amount is a capital reserve. Our hall rental proceeds have greatly increased in the last year, and most of the summer of 2010 is already booked by renters. The 2010 -2011 budget line for Hall Rental has been increased from \$9,000 in 2009-10 to \$15,000 in 2010-11, based on the actual rental income received in 2009-2010..

Riko called on Bev Ball, the Chair of the Canvass committee, to give a brief report of the 2010-11 Canvass results. We have pledges of \$103,000 from 64 pledge units (there are 108 members) There were 84 pledging units in 2009, which means 20 people elected not to pledge this year. On a more positive note, our pledges were very generous. The Canvass team is thinking of holding a workshop before the next Canvass to elicit ideas on how to successfully canvass all members while ultimately respecting their choice, to decline to pledge. Finally, our annual Service Auction was highlighted as an important way to augment our income, and Bev urged those present to support the Auction.

Riko Oka then continued her remarks. We will have less revenue in 2010-2011 due to the sale of 561 Clarke, with a corresponding loss of rental income, and the decline in pledge revenue. The total General Fund Receipts of \$188,419 for 2010-2011 includes a surplus that has been carried forward, and the funds from 561.

Under Staff Salaries and Allowances, the Minister’s expenses are high this year due to several one-time only expenditures (moving expense, private health care costs, immigration costs, others) She reviewed General Expenses and explained changes to the budgeted amounts. Committee expenses were then reviewed. She pointed out that as there was no Social Justice Committee in 2009-10, there was no money allotted to this committee. For 2010-2011, the Social Justice Committee has \$200.

There was a discussion about using some of our capital money to pay for a deficit in the operating budget, if there is one in 2011 or 2012, or using capital money to pay down the mortgage by \$65,000 (which would not eliminate the mortgage but would reduce the monthly payments). Our mortgage is less than \$100,000.

Bill Ratcliffe spoke in favour of using our capital reserve only for capital expenses, and reminded us of a motion passed by the congregation in June, 2008 which directs the Board how the proceeds of any sale of our real estate can be applied.

Ann Klinck asked if we had an open mortgage? Riko said yes, and we can pay down the mortgage at any time. Don Ewert pointed that we can potentially change the 2008 motion on proceeds of a real estate sale, with a new motion. Some members expressed concern that if we use the capital reserve to pay down the mortgage and we run out of money for the operating expenses, then we would have a serious problem. Alison Konrad spoke in favour of spending some of our capital reserve on operating expenses. Bev Ball spoke in favour of using some of our capital reserve for operating expenses if we have a plan in place for how to spend the money.

Ivan Sexsmith called the question. The Chair said we would now vote on the motion on the floor and asked for those in favour : 17. The Chair then asked for those opposed : 3
The Chair declared the motion was Carried.
(see the attached Unitarian Fellowship of London Proposed Budget 2010-2011.)

8(b) Other reports as written : Staff, Board

Questions, Comments only for these reports.

There was a question if the Nominating Committee is still a Committee of the Congregation? Yes.
Bev Ball pointed out that the Volunteer Roster in the Annual Report is an unofficial document.

At this time, the Chair adjourned the meeting for a brief break.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 11:28 a.m.

9. Re-Appointment of Lay Chaplains

(a) Edna Anderson (to be renewed to June 2011)

(b) Joyce Orchard (to be renewed to June 2011)

Motion : that Edna Anderson and Joyce Orchard be re-appointed to the position of Lay Chaplain.

Moved by Don Ewert and seconded by Judith Warren. Carried.

10. Appointment of the Reviewer to perform the financial review for 2009-2010.

Motion : that Rod Geer be re-appointed to the financial review for the fiscal year 2009-2010.

Moved by Riko Oka and seconded by Dave Smith. Carried.

11. Report of the Nominating Committee

The Chair recognized Bev Ball to speak on behalf of the Nominating Committee. The NC is experimenting with a new recruitment model by asking members to commit to a one time task or job. People are reluctant to commit to a long term of service on a committee. There has been some success with this. Another idea is encouraging members to come forward if they have identified a task as needing to be done, and perhaps volunteering their own skill set, if it fits the identified task. Volunteers should not be expected to offer the same skills that they use in their work life, but be encouraged to volunteer in an area of interest to them. The Volunteer Roster is developing into a useful tool to track what is happening and what is not happening.

12. Election of new members of the Board

The Chair asked Bev Ball to continue with this item.

Bev Ball read the slate of Board members.

Motion : that the slate for 2010-11 be approved. Moved by Edna Anderson and seconded by Bill Ratcliffe. Carried.

13. Installation of the New President and address

The Chair recognized our new President, Alison Konrad, and invited her to make some remarks. She is looking forward to a great year, and acknowledged with gratitude the efforts of our outgoing interim Minister, Rev. Felicia Urbanski, and thanked her for all her hard work on our behalf. Bev Ball and Don Ewert welcomed Alison to the Board and offered her their support.

14. Other Business

The Chair recognized Bev Ball for some remarks. Bev asked Don Ewert to come forward so he could be recognized for his extraordinary service to the UFL: by serving as President for the past two years. His commitment to the congregation and his leadership were truly inspiring and exceptional. Bev presented Don with a scroll and a gift.

Don Ewert expressed his gratitude for all the support he has received over the past two years

Elvins Spenser thanked Felicia for all her hard work, and noted that our new President is business school professor, which he can scarcely believe!

Riko Oka acknowledged Board members who are retiring from the Board and thanked them for their dedication and hard work : Lorraine Thomson and Bev Ball.

Rod Martin informed us of a farewell party for Rev Urbanski on June 27, 2010 after the service.

15. Adjournment.

The chair called for a motion to adjourn as there was no other business.

Motion : that the annual meeting be adjourned. Moved by Lorraine Thomson and seconded by Edna Anderson. Carried.

The meeting ended at 11:50 a.m.

The whole of which is respectfully submitted by
Linda Lincoln
Recording Secretary for the ACM