

The North Universalist Chapel Society

Woodstock, VT

Annual Meeting – January 24, 2016

1. Welcome – Board of Trustees, Denise Lyons and Susan Inui. Denise and Susan welcomed the congregation.
2. Election of Moderator – Neil Marinello of the Nominating Committee nominated Kevin Geiger as moderator. Ralph Lancaster seconded. Kevin was voted moderator.
3. Election of Clerk – Irene Haslin of the Nominating Committee nominated Judy Williamson. It was seconded and voted upon. Judy was voted clerk.
4. Election of Treasurer- David Doolittle of the Nominating Committee nominated Ann Wynia. Anne Macsoud seconded the nomination. Ann was voted Treasurer.
5. Presentation of Annual Report – presented by Kevin Geiger. Peggy Kannestine moved to accept the report Neil Marinello seconded. Annual Report was accepted.
6. Finance and Funds Committee Nominee – Nominating Committee nominates Mark Auriema and Jim Swift. Don Ransom nominated Jim Swift. There was a question asked about what this committee does. Chris Lloyd spoke about the works of the committee. Jim was elected. Don Ransom nominated Mark Auriema. Mark was also elected.
7. Nominating Committee Nominee – Anne Marinello of the Board of Trustees nominated Mary Jeanne Taylor to the committee. Mary Jeanne accepted.
8. Budget 2016 – a) Pledge Drive report by Ann Wynia. A motion to accept the report was made by Neil Marinello. Deb Hawthorn seconded. The Board and the Finance Committee put the budget together. Peggy Kannestine asked a question about item 30 regarding 138 active members. Matt Friedman and Gayle Smith said they had joined today and signed the book, so that they could participate and vote. Gina Auriema asked about the change in the minister's salary. It represented the amount to be paid until the end of June (\$35,890). Matt Friedman asked about the \$40,000 not needed to spend and what were the plans for it. A Board member said that it would not be discussed until June. b) Finance and Funds Committee Report – by Chris Lloyd. He spoke about the Community Loan Fund and others, and reported that Total Investments were \$166,000. Irene Haslin asked if we pay our full share of the UUA. Ann Wynia replied that we do. Ann then reported on the Pledge Drive. To date there have been 97 pledges made representing 144 people. Anne Macsoud acknowledged the work of Karen Wolk and Richard Fox for all the work they did for the Pledge Drive.
9. Committee Updates
  - a. Music and Worship – Jenny Gelfan. She expressed appreciation for the many members who have reached out to volunteer to do reflections, be service coordinators, and contributing in other ways.
  - b. Spiritual Exploration for Children and Families – Ariel Brewer. Shoshanna Belisle said the name had been changed from Religious Exploration. Geraldine Fowler added that there has

- been a change from one class to two classes – one class of children in grades 1st through 3rd and another class of children in grades 4th through 6<sup>th</sup>. She added that they are working with the CTWK and they want to be involved with work they do. Also, the plan is to bring the OWL program in April. They will start trainings for the 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> graders and the 7<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> graders.
- c. Welcoming and Engagement Committee – Rick Fiske. Rick explained that it is a new committee which began in June 2015. The intention of the committee is to actively welcome all who come through the doors of North Chapel. The committee will ask for greeters. Kathy Fiske and Geraldine Fowler are creating a new brochure for the North Chapel. Name tags will be provided for visitors. One of our members (Naomi) purchased blue mugs for visitors to use during coffee hour. Shoshana Belisle offered the idea for each of us to greet one another at the beginning of the Sunday service.
  - d. Buildings and Grounds – Jack Nelson gave the report. Anne Marinello acknowledged the work done by Anne Dean for changing the former Nursery School space to a chapel.
  - e. Communications – Deb Rice. Deb reported on the website, and offered to help anyone who is not getting church email, or has difficulty going to the site. She added that we finally have an archive of Sunday reflections. They go from the microphone to Geraldine to transcribe.
  - f. Membership – Sherry Belisle. Sherry expressed appreciation to the Welcoming Committee for taking steps to help relieve their committee of some of its work. She also offered a thank you for the altar decorations by members of the congregation. She added that their committee would welcome ideas regarding pot lucks and Circle dinners.
  - g. Nominating Committee – Don Ransom. He reported that they would be looking for two new Board members this year. He added that the Resource Committee is needing help due to members leaving, and their focus would be on the Pledge Drive and talking points of why we need the pledges.
10. Task Force Update
- a. Facilities for the Future – Michael Stoner. Chris Bartlett and Anne Dean have created a task force to look at the needs of the space of North Chapel. Michael is coordinating these efforts. They want a consultant to look at the moisture issues of the building. They have contacted the Preservation Trust for an energy audit of the building. They will look to where to allocate budget monies to address these needs.
11. Planning for our future: Challenge and Opportunity – Board of Trustees – Susan Inui. She spoke of dealing with challenge and finding opportunities. The Board will convene on a retreat February 7<sup>th</sup>. Their focus will be the question of how we do ministry here at the North Chapel (without a minister). They will be looking at the opportunities in front and ahead of us. The time table includes consult with Doug Zelinsky on January 27<sup>th</sup> that will include a group of about 20 or so members/leaders in the congregation. Denise added that Doug felt we really have the opportunity to look with fresh eyes, to pause and think of how we will meet our needs in a creative and sensible way.
- Carol Egbert asked about someone new/a stranger coming to our door needing help. Geraldine is the first point of contact and what resources do we have to meet those needs. Anne Marinello will work with Geraldine and the ministry to locate resources in the area. Anne asked if there

was any interest for providing coverage at the door in Geraldine's absence. A member spoke of having a communications board available. Another suggested putting the time of Sunday service in a visible place. Rick Fiske commented on the excellence in our leadership team, and their patience and courage.

12. Unsung Hero Award – Board of Trustees, Anne Dean. Anne named Wendy Smith as the member chosen for the award this year. Anne acknowledged Wendy's enthusiasm, creativity, and behind the scenes work. She was very busy taking photos and putting the album for Daniel together as a gift from the congregation.

Anne also acknowledged Judith Taylor for the beautiful quilt she created – her banner intended to express the local sustainability. She thanked all who helped in this cooperative effort.

13. Closing – Susan Inui with Diane Mellinger and the choir sang the "Amen" hymn.

14. Following the hymn Hope Yeager made a motion to adjourn. Mary Jeanne Taylor seconded. The meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Judy Williamson, clerk