

North Universalist Chapel Society, Woodstock, VT
Annual Meeting
January 28, 2018

1. **Moderator, Kevin Geiger, opened the meeting at 12:00 p.m.** 73 members were in attendance.
2. **Welcome from Board of Trustees from Denise Lyons and Susan Inui.** Susan commented that Annual Meetings at the North Chapel have been going on for 180 years. Denise read words by Wendell Berry.
3. **Election of the 2018 Moderator.** Neil Marinello for the Nominating Committee nominated Kevin Geiger as Moderator. The membership voted unanimously in favor.
4. **Election of the 2018 Clerk.** Neil Marinello for the Nominating committee nominated Hope Yeager to serve as Clerk for 2018. The membership voted unanimously in favor.
5. **Election of the 2018 Treasurer.** Neil Marinello for the Nominating Committee nominated Ann Wynia to be North Chapel Treasurer for 2018. The membership voted unanimously in favor.
6. **Presentation of Annual Report.** Peggy Kannenstine made a motion to accept the Annual Report. Peg Brightman seconded the motion. The membership voted unanimously in favor to accept the Annual Report.
7. **Finance and Funds Committee Nominee.** Neil Marinello for Nominating Committee nominated Peggy Kannenstine for a second three year term. The membership voted unanimously in favor.
8. **Board of Trustees Nominees.** Neil Marinello for Nominating Committee nominated Marcia Peterson and Richard Waddell for their first three year term, ending in 2021. The membership voted unanimously in favor.
9. **Nominating Committee Nominee.** The Board represented by Marcia Peterson nominated Deb Rice. The membership voted unanimously in favor.
10. **Proposed By Law Change to Article VII Section 10:** ***"The Board of Trustees shall meet once every month and at any other times at the call of the Chairperson or at the request of any of three Trustees. The Board of Trustees shall designate a portion of the November and June meetings for Executive Session to discuss staff matters and other items as allowed by Vermont law. The BOT may meet in Executive Session at other times during the year at the request of the Chairperson or of any three Trustees. No motions can be made and voted upon during Executive Session."*** (By Law change is added in bold here.) Peggy Kannenstine made a motion to accept the By Law change. Katrin Helgason seconded the motion. Denise explained that the reasoning behind the By Law change is to have the Board follow best practices. Lynn Peterson asked why is this coming up now? Denise explained that this has never been written down and the feeling is it would be best practice to formalize this process. Carol Egbert noted that the remaining Board meetings are open. Peggy Kannenstine noted that in the past the Board has gone into Executive Session to discuss staff but this makes it official. Richard Schramm commented that he has a hard time with the By Law change as it is currently proposed. He finds it too vague because Executive Session is a

time to discuss staff, real estate transactions, and other delicate matters, and the North Chapel has always strived for transparency. Martha Leonard asked isn't Executive Session covered under Roberts Rules of Order. Kevin said that it is covered under Vermont Law. Richard suggested that we add language into the By Law Change: "as allowed by Vermont law." Norwood Long noted that he wrote a descriptive guide about committees at North Chapel. He offered to give out copies of his guide if this would be useful to further an understanding of the governance structure of the church. The membership voted unanimously in favor of the By Law change.

11. Budget 2018

- a. 2018 Pledge Drive Report from Canvass Task Force. Rick Fiske reported for the Canvass Task Force that Finance Committee gave the CTF the figure of \$160,000 for the 2018 North Chapel financial needs. As of today we have reached 95% of the needed funds: \$153,875. Of the entire membership 45 members have not yet pledged. Rick urged any present who have not yet pledged to contact Ann Wynia.
- b. Finance and Trustee of Funds Committee Report from Moira Notargiacomo. Moira presented the 2018 Budget to those assembled.
- c. Discussion of 2018 budget and vote to approve the 2018 budget. Joby Thompson made a motion to accept the budget as written, and Lynn Peterson seconded the motion. Ann Wynia commented that the \$13,000 surplus has already been written into the 2018 receipts. She also noted that the \$18,000 surplus came in part from the wreath sale which in 2017 got a late start but still raised a good deal of money. Karen Wolk asked what the Byrne Foundation grant is for. Ann W. reported that the Board wrote a grant when they wanted to expand Geraldine's role and hours. The church received a \$15,000 grant from the Byrne Foundation, but that has not been written into the budget because the hope is that the remaining \$24,710 will be raised through fundraising. Zoe Potter asked what does the \$10,000 for Staff in the Budget pay for. Geraldine reported that the \$10,000 pays the SE staff. Susan reported that when the church did not have a full time minister the Finance Committee advised the Board to set aside funds designated for minister salaries. In 2018 we will have a full time minister and Geraldine in an expanded role. The church is strong financially going into 2018, but 2019 will bring a crunch. The hope is that we raise needed money for 2018 so that 2019 is met in good financial shape. Richard Schramm asked if capital expenses are included in the 2018 budget. Denise and Susan said that the capital expenses are kept separate. Denise presented a pie chart showing that for the 2018 North Chapel Budget 61% of the church budget is raised through pledges and the canvass. Fundraising efforts throughout the year raise 20% of the budget. There is a 19% gap which could be filled largely through the Byrne Foundation grant and the 2016-2017 monies that could carry forward. Instead of using the grant money and the extra set aside from 2016-17, the wish is that we continue to aggressively fundraise. Danelle Sims asked whether or not the Bookstock event will continue in the future. Denise answered that Bookstock

is not in the budget. Anne Marinello mentioned that there is a time crunch for the rest of the Woodstock community who want to continue Bookstock and asked when will Resource Development Committee might make their decision about North Chapel involvement. Susan and Denise replied that the Board and the Nominating Committee will be working to fill the Resource Development Committee so that those decisions can be made in a timely manner. The membership voted unanimously in favor of the 2018 North Chapel budget.

12. Focus on Our Future Update: Celebrate, Broaden, Deepen, Commit, Organize.

a. *Key accomplishments* - Susan and Denise reported the following recent North Chapel accomplishments:

- * Finished 10 year commitment to Life and Hope.
- * Finished the ministerial search and Leon is here among us (yay!).
- * Finished a Capital Campaign raised \$275,000 to go toward physical plant. 50 people from within the North Chapel and 50 people from without North Chapel donated quite generously.
- * Diane Mellinger has been Music Director at North Chapel for 20 years.
- ****Peggy Kannenstine made a presentation of a gift to Diane* for her years of beautiful, musical leadership. Diane said that she has worked in the past at the Quechee church, at the Christian Science church, at the East Barnard church, the Episcopal church, the Congregational church; being here at the North Chapel has been a joy and thank you.
- * Expanded Geraldine's role.
- * Welcoming and Engagement Committee and Leon's efforts to welcome new members.
- * Divorce Support Group organized by Geraldine.
- * Yoga and Story time for PreSchool at the Library.
- * Social Justice discussions. Leon went into the Middle School.
- * Other deepening connections with each other through a variety of activities such as 8-Fold Path, Adult SE classes to be proposed, Evensong, Amazing Grays, weekly meditation.
- * Commitment to Climate Justice.
- * Committee Cafe and promotion of Best Practices through the Board and the committees.
- * Susan noted that Nominating Committee will be looking for people to engage and join the Resource Development Committee to organize the North Chapel community for fundraising and other steps to reach the church's financial goals.

b. *Facilities for the future* - Michael Stoner reported that the church received a \$19,000 grant from the state of Vermont to fix the roof. That work will happen in the spring. At the January Board meeting, the Board accepted a bid from Colby and Tobiason for work done on the downstairs chapel and SE rooms. That work will begin on February 12. There is not yet a completion date. Michael noted that this work brings up unanticipated expenses. There is a plan to make some changes in the offices and the parlors. This spring there will be final grading and landscaping and replacing of the walkway from the parking in the back. Sherry Belisle asked why we can't expand our parking in the back since we have lost parking across the street. Michael explained that the town won't permit it based on the size of our property. Vassie Sinopoulos asked if there are any

plans to fix the parsonage and the barn. The answer was that there are no plans for fixing those buildings at the moment.

13. **Remembrances.** Sherry got up and read out the names of the North Chapel members and friends who passed away since last year's Annual Meeting: Monique Van de Ven, Beverly Moody, Jenepher Lingelbach, Marilyn Spaulding, Lina Tans, and Patsy Matthews.

14. **Expression of gratitude for special contributions.** Anne Macksoud made a presentation thanking Deb Rice for her service on the Board, helping out with Bookstock, the Pizza Oven, Communications committee, and many other functions around the North Chapel.

15. **Choir presentation***** (see above)

16. **Unsung Hero** - presented by Akankha Perkins. Akankha presented this award to Linda Galvao for volunteering in the community and showing kindness to those around her such as: collecting clothes for Silent Warriors, for filling Christmas stockings for children at the Haven, for organizing accolades for Geraldine when her father visited, for creating a fairy garden for Pru's neighborhood children, and many other kindnesses and community work.

17. **Closing** - Reverend Leon Dunkley taught those assembled a sung blessing to close the meeting.

Adjournment - Susan Inui made a motion to adjourn. Kevin adjourned the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hope Yeager
2018 Clerk of the North Chapel