

North Universalist Chapel Society
Woodstock, Vermont
Annual Meeting - January 29, 2017

1. Opening of the Meeting: Kevin Geiger, Moderator of 2016 Annual Meeting
2. Welcome - Board of Trustees represented by Denise Lyons and Susan Inui welcomed the members and friends present and read a quote by Jack Kornfield emphasizing interdependence.
3. Election of 2017 Moderator: Nominating Committee member Mary Jeanne Taylor nominated Kevin Geiger to be the moderator for the 2017 North Chapel Annual Meeting. Neil Marinello moved that the nominations be closed. Lynn Peterson seconded. The motion to nominate Kevin Geiger was passed.
4. Election of 2017 Clerk: Nominating Committee member Mary Jeanne Taylor nominated Hope Yeager. Hope was voted in as Clerk.
5. Election of Treasurer: Mary Jeanne Taylor nominated Ann Wynia to be Treasurer. The membership voted to continue Ann Wynia as Treasurer.
6. Presentation of Annual Report. Peggy Kannenstine moved to accept the Annual Report. Wendy Smith seconded the motion. The membership voted to accept the Annual Report.
7. Finance and Funds Committee Nominee: Mary Jeanne Taylor nominated Moira Notargiacomo to join the Finance and Funds Committee. The membership voted in favor of Moira's joining the committee.
8. Board of Trustees Nominees - Nominating Committee. Mary Jeanne Taylor nominated Susan Inui, Denise Lyons, and Anne Macksoud for their 2nd three year terms as members of the Board of Trustees. Also, Mary Jeanne Taylor nominated Judy Williamson to join the Board of Trustees for her first three year term.
9. Nominating Committee Nominee - The Board. Susan Inui on behalf of the Board of Trustees nominated Hope Yeager for the Nominating Committee. The membership voted in favor of Hope joining the Nominating Committee.
10. Budget 2017
 - A. 2017 Pledge Drive report: Rick Fiske gave an update on the progress of the 2017 Pledge Drive. Susan Inui gave an explanation of how the pledge drive goal was reached.
 - B. Finance and Trustee of Funds Committee Report: Jim Swift reported on the projected expenses in 2017 and how the \$30,000 surplus from 2016 will be folded in slowly over the course of two years.
 - C. Vote to approve the 2017 budget. Neil Marinello made a motion to approve the budget. Lynn Peterson seconded the motion. Lynn Peterson asked what amount the Annual Book Sale brought in. Ann Wynia said it brought in around \$3,000.

Lynn expressed gratitude for the money raised through the Book Sale and the Classical Music Series. The membership voted in favor of the motion to approve the budget.

11. Vote on change to ByLaws, Article VII, Section 9 amendment: “The Board of Trustees shall not obligate the Society for an amount in excess of \$7500, except by vote of the Society.” Joby Thompson moved to accept the amendment. Peggy Kannenstine seconded the motion. Jim Swift said that it was the recommendation of the Finance and Funds Committee that the amount be raised to \$7500 because the amount had not been raised in quite a long time. The membership voted in favor of the motion.
12. Vote on naming Reverend Daniel Jantos, Minister Emeritus: Anne Marinello gave an explanation of the “devoted and competent” service which gives a past minister the possible recognition as a Minister Emeritus. She explained how Daniel was our longest serving full time minister and served our congregation in many ways (personal, spiritual, and professional). The Board of Trustees is unanimous in supporting this motion. Anne Marinello moved that Daniel Jantos be named as Minister Emeritus of the North Chapel. Peggy Kannenstine seconded the motion. Pierre Fournier asked what are the privileges of being a Minister Emeritus. Susan Inui explained that a plaque noting Daniel’s service will be placed in the hallway by the minister’s office along with a photograph. Also Daniel will be allowed to attend and vote at the UUA’s General Assembly.
13. Our Future in Focus Update
 - A. Key accomplishments: Denise Lyons gave an overview of the Planning Process the congregation went through two years ago. She spoke on how the Board of Trustees continues to hold the priorities from the Planning Process in their current considerations. (*The following categories are based on the priorities identified by the Planning Process.*)
 - Celebrate: The North Chapel accomplished the tasks of the Interim Period mostly without the help of a minister present. Interim Period tasks included:
 - i. Claim and honor North Chapel’s past
 - ii. Recognize North Chapel’s unique identity
 - iii. Finding Gwen Groff
 - iv. Increase Geraldine’s responsibilities
 - v. Amazing Grays
 - vi. Sunday services
 - vii. Pizza Nights
 - viii. Minister Search is launched.
 - Broaden: North Chapel is welcoming to all and takes into account families and their needs.
 - i. Blue Mugs for visitors to be identified at Coffee Hour
 - ii. Outside greeter added to the indoor greeter
 - iii. Community bulletin board in the Social Hall
 - iv. Redesign Quest
 - v. Geraldine posts sermons online and updated the membership database, joined Chamber of Commerce, posts on Facebook as well as weekly emails
 - vi. Welcoming and Engagement Committee formed

vii. Addition of downstairs chapel and includes Friday evening services and Buddhist practice sessions (Eightfold Path).

Akhanka pointed out that we have not yet met the UUA's requirements to be an official Welcoming Congregation.

Deepen:

- i. Welcoming and Engagement Committee's Peace Flag project
- ii. Use of the chapel space weekly for Evensong
- iii. Choir
- iv. Circles of Trust
- v. Amazing Grays
- vi. Clearness Committee
- vii. Oneness Blessing
- viii. Walking Group
- ix. Circle Dinners

Commitment to Climate Crisis:

- i. decreased the use of the sanctuary to decrease the use of the heating fuel.
- ii. fuel efficiency is a part of the consideration of new building use projects
- iii. Permaculture Garden project.

Organize:

- i. Community conversations
- ii. Committee Cafes including Best Practices
- iii. UUA workshops
- iv. work with Doug Zelinsky from regional UUA office
- v. capital building needs Task Force

Kathy Fiske asked that the Choir should be added to the Celebrate and Broaden categories because they are such a gift to the congregation.

B. Facilities for the Future: Denise explained that the North Chapel Facilities Task Force gave a report to the Board on how space needs and existing spaces are not always in harmony. Michael Stoner, Anne Dean, and Gina Auriema are overseeing the Facilities Task Force moving forward. Anne Dean asked that Susan Inui and Denise Lyons receive a standing ovation in recognition of all of their support.

An architect, Robert Black, has been hired to help assess the physical plant's needs. He pointed out the moisture problem which will only get worse. Also an engineer has been hired, Sabrina Duk from Stevens and Associates in Brattleboro, who also pointed out the extent of the moisture problem. The Task Force is working on furnishing the chapel, becoming carbon neutral, insulating the spaces where renovation work is going to be done. Projected costs of these updates are being assessed and information gathered. There is an \$18,000 possible grant from Preservation Trust of Vermont. The congregation would need to match that with another \$18,000. There will be an update coming from the Task Force about the total costs of the improvements.

14. Search Committee Update: Marcia Peterson, Matt Friedman, Veronica Delay, Angel Rubino, and Richard Schramm came forward to update the membership on the Ministerial Search process. Marcia reported that they now have four candidates that they

are excited about. There will be a time period of neutral pulpits. By the end of March they will have narrowed it down to one, two, or three possible finalists. Pierre Fournier asked if the Search Committee could share any kind of general information about the four candidates who are being considered. Marcia said that between the four they run the gamut from old to young, gay, straight, married, and single. They live currently in Florida, Washington state, Washington DC.

Anne Dean asked if these are people who expressed interest in us. Marcia said, yes, these are all applicants who indicated an interest in the North Chapel. Mary Blanton asked if a non-UUA applicant will still be considered. Marcia said they have talked about it but they are very excited about the current candidates. Renee Granger asked if the Search Committee has had a chance to interact with members of congregations of these candidates and Marcia said yes. Carol Egbert asked if the Search Committee feels that this process is different enough than the Interim Minister search and Marcia said yes. Anne Dean asked how a non-UUA person would know that we are looking for a minister. Marcia said that the search has been posted on the North Chapel website and in the Quest. J asked if the new minister would be the only person giving the reflections. Matt Friedman said no, the standing practice of the minister giving three out of four reflections per month would continue.

The Search Committee is confident in the North Chapel's ability to stand on its own so if none of the candidates seem suitable that they won't recommend anyone. Carol Egbert asked if the Search Committee could ask the candidates what they see as the role of children. Richard Schramm encouraged the congregation to submit ideas, concerns, questions to the Search Committee. Patsy Matthews asked if all four candidates would be coming to the North Chapel. Marcia said, no, the Search Committee would narrow it down to one candidate before inviting them to come. Anne Macksoud thanked the Search Committee for their time and their hard work in the search process.

15. Expressions of Gratitude: Anne Macksoud presented thanks to Jenny Gelfan for chairing the Music and Worship Committee during the time of transitions through an Interim Minister coming and going. Jenny said that it has been a team effort. Deb Rice presented thanks to Anne Marinello for her six years of service on the Board of Trustees. Anne spoke about her gratitude for all of the great work and learning during the time she served on the Board.

16. Unsung Hero: Denise Lyons presented the 2017 Unsung Hero Award to Richard Schramm. She listed his contributions to the North Chapel's community through his work on the Social Justice committee, participant in the Planning Process, his work offering reflections or service coordinator on some Sunday services, running Amazing Grays, serving as a member of the Ministerial Search Committee, organizing the Clearness Committee sessions, among others!

17. Susan asked those present to stand and join hands. She read closing words.

18. Kevin asked for a motion to adjourn. Joby Thompson moved to adjourn. The membership voted to adjourn at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Hope Yeager
Clerk of the North Chapel, 2017

Appendices to North Chapel Annual Meeting Minutes, 2017

1. Anne Marinello's motion to name Reverend Daniel Jantos a Minister Emeritus of the North Chapel. ([Click Here](#))
2. Our Future in Focus summary poster. ([Click Here](#))
3. North Chapel Facilities Task Force Report, 2016. ([Click Here](#))