

**Annual Meeting of the Membership  
Birmingham Unitarian Church  
Meeting Minutes  
May 20, 2018**

**Welcome and Call to Order – Ed Sharples**

The meeting was called to order at 12:40 PM. Choir Sunday ran late.

**Congregational Covenant – Ed Sharples**

**Quorum Count – Ed Sharples**

- A quorum count was declared.

**Minutes from May 21, 2017 – Ed Sharples**

- Refer to page 42 of the BUC Annual Report.
- The minutes were approved by voice vote.

**Leadership Development Committee Report and Vote – Soren Andersen**

- Refer to page 11 of the BUC Annual Report.
- Soren reviewed the purpose the of Leadership Development Committee and the importance of the BUC Constitution.

**Settled Minister Search Committee Report – Lisa Demian**

- Refer to page 4 of the BUC Annual Report.
- Lisa reviewed the activities of the committee since its inception in July 2017; culminating with the identification of a well-qualified candidate during a “late search” and looking forward to the scheduled Candidating Week for June 10-17, 2018.

**Amendments to the Constitution – Ed Sharples and Mary Jo Ebert**

- Refer to page 47 of the BUC Annual Report.
- Ed referred to the two amendments, Societal Issues of Concern and Leadership Development Committee.
- Ed explained that should the amendment related to Societal Issues of Concern pass, the congregation would be able to vote on a proposed resolution on reducing gun violence.

### **Treasurer's Report – Claudia Kocher**

- Refer to page 39 of the BUC Annual Report.
- Claudia reviewed income and expenses for the current fiscal year and noted that the Board had accepted a deficit budget. She stressed the importance of having a balanced operating budget for the 2019 fiscal year.
- Claudia also outlined the challenges for the 2019 fiscal year, reviewed the policy on the \$100,000 line of credit that is available, and the status of the Capital Campaign. Specifically, capital project financing was restructured to include a 20-year \$400,000 mortgage and a short-term loan (\$240,000 balance as of March 31, 2018) that is being paid off with incoming capital campaign pledges.

### **Mortgage Adjustment – Claudia Kocher**

- Claudia explained that the Board is requesting congregational approval of an increase in the mortgage of \$55,000 to \$455,000 to cover cost overage on the capital project and forecasted uncollectible pledges.
- Pat Schwing moved that the mortgage be increased by \$55,000 to \$455,000. Dick Schwing seconded the motion. Discussion took place. The motion was approved by a show of hands.

### **Recognition of Campus Development – Dick Cantley**

- Refer to page 13 of the BUC Annual Report.
- Dick expressed gratitude to the staff and congregation for their support of the construction project.
- He acknowledged the Campus Development and Prioritization Committee (CDPC) members; Steve Lorey, Inta Davis, Jim Shettel, Jim Clark, Sharon Kirchner, and Pam Graham; as well as the congregant architects; Frank Arvan, Keith Brown, and John Hammer.

### **President's Remarks – Ed Sharples**

- Refer to page 7 of the BUC Annual Report.
- Ed thanked the members of the Board; in particular, Bruce Webber, Board Vice President, who handled issues of the Board while Ed was recuperating from two hospital stays last year.

- Ed also expressed thanks to the congregation for their kindness and understanding.

### **Ministers' Remarks – Rev. Danial Budd and Rev. Patricia Shelden**

- Daniel thanked the congregation for their openness and welcome during the past year. They asked the congregation to do the same for the new minister.
- Daniel thanked the staff for their support.
- Patricia highlighted the social justice initiatives.
- Patricia also thanked Kym Worth, Associate Executive and Ed Sharples, Board President.

### **Planned Giving Report – Rich Schreck**

- Refer to page 12 of the BUC Annual Report.
- Rich explained the work of the Planned Giving Committee, which oversees the three church investment funds; the Endowment Fund, the Music Fund, and the Memorial Glen Fund.
- The Endowment Fund stands at \$577,620, the Music Fund stands at \$49,472, and the Memorial Glen Fund stands at \$46,865.
- Earnings from past contributions to the Community Foundation of South East Michigan (CFSEM) will contribute two payouts of \$8735.
- Rich also talked about the committee's work with the CFSEM to establish a Charitable Gift Annuity for BUC, which will allow members to donate money to the Foundation. Rich announced that members can now go to the CFSEM website to calculate their own approximate returns from the CFSEM Annuity and referred to page 12 of the BUC Annual Report for details.
- Rich thanked the individual committee members.

### **Results of the Vote – Soren Andersen**

- All Board members were confirmed.
- New members of the Leadership Development Committee are Bob Clement, Lisa Demian, Ben Ensroth, Steve Lorey, and Andrea Zellner.
- The results of the vote regarding the constitutional amendments were 135 "yes" and 12 "no" votes.

- Soren announced that the vote on the BUC Resolution on Reducing Gun Violence were still being calculated and would be announced as soon as possible on the BUC website.

### **Issues Arising for the Good of the Congregation – Claudia Kocher**

- Claudia expressed gratitude to the Ministerial Search Committee for their hard work and dedication, to David Graham, who will be leaving the Board in June, and to Ed Sharples for his gracious leadership.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Gawel-Ensroth, Secretary

A final note: After the adjournment, the results of the BUC Resolution on Reducing Gun Violence were announced by Soren. There were 132 “yes” and 8 “no” votes.