

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST MINISTERS' ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING
Minutes
Thursday, June 20, 2002
Quebec, Quebec, Canada

1. Call to Order **Kendyl Gibbons, President** K. Gibbons, UUMA President, called the meeting to order at 9:43 a.m. and noted that a quorum was present.

2. Approval of 2001 Annual Meeting Minutes **Lisa Friedman MSP to approve the 2001 Annual Meeting minutes as presented.** Passed unanimously.

3. Appointment of Parliamentarian & Time Keeper **Kendyl Gibbons** Daniel Simer O'Connell was appointed parliamentarian and Polly Leland-Mayer appointed as timekeeper.

4. Adoption of Rules & Procedures **Kendyl Gibbons MSP to adopt the Rules and Procedures as presented.** Passed unanimously.

5. Nominating Committee Report, Collection of Ballots

D. Sammons presented the slate from the Nominating Committee: Roger Jones to continue as Treasurer, Bob Schaibly to the Chapter Visits Portfolio and Wendy Fish to the Arrangements Portfolio of the UUMA Exec and to elect Tom Goldsmith to the Berry Street Essay. **MSP to move a single ballot for the slate.** Passed unanimously. **MSP to pass the slate.** Passed unanimously. He invited the membership to share names of people they would like to see serve in the future.

6. Election of New Member to Ministerial Conference in Berry Street.
See above motion.

7. President's Report **Kendyl Gibbons** K. Gibbons reflected on the national events of the year and their effect upon our calling. She highlighted the issues before the UUMA Exec, including the concerns and needs of our community ministers and Canadian colleagues, our relationship to the staff of the UUA, field staff issues, and our role in the restructuring of the Fellowship process. She spoke of the Exec's appreciation for the fruitful insight from having the two Anti-racism, Anti-oppression, and Multiculturalism positions on the Exec. She thanked the members of the Convo planning committee. She invited members to read the reports presented to them in the packet.

8. Treasurer's Report, Adoption of 2002-2003 Budget **Roger Jones** R. Jones called the membership's attention to the proposed budget. He gave a brief review, including the fact that we have roughly \$200,000 in UUMA assets. He noted

that the approval of the budget would give the Exec the authority to negotiate a new salary rate for the UUMA administrator in Boston. Questions then came from the floor. What is the spending for the last quarter of the year? R. Jones reported that we will end in the black, including UUMA Days expenses. Did Convo make or lose money? The figures have yet to be reconciled. **MSP to adopt the 2002-03 budget.** Passed unanimously.

9. Report on Executive Committee Projects

9. a. Field Staff Issues Lisa Friedman L. Friedman reviewed the history of the formation of the joint UUMA/ LREDA Field Staff Task Force and highlighted the research project that they are now beginning, contacting all current field staff and those who have served in the past five years. She invited the membership's questions and concerns.

9. b. Specialties Project Roberta Nelson R. Nelson reviewed the history of the Specialties Project and the formation of the UUMA Specialties Committee and invited the membership to attend the afternoon Collegial Conversation on this topic. She encouraged input to both the Committee and the Exec.

9. c. Committee on Ministry for Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression and Multiculturalism **John Gilmore**
Patricia Jimenez
P. Jimenez thanked the UUMA members present at Convo for their concern regarding her health. She reported on the work that she and J. Gilmore have been doing with this Committee and introduced the Committee members present. J. Gilmore observed that this Committee is giving them an opportunity to go deeper into issues and concerns and to spread the insights through the larger body of our ministry.

9. d. Community Ministry Focus Group Dorothy Emerson D. Emerson reported on this group that formed at Convo and observed that the fact that many Community ministers are not at this meeting is one of the issues they will be addressing. She invited those who serve in ministry outside of congregational settings to rise and for those who are fellowshipped as community ministers to remain standing. She also noted that in our theological schools a majority of students are articulating an interest in community ministry. She applauded those congregations who have an affiliate community ministry and thanked the Exec for their support.

9. e. Mind the Gap Sunday Alison Miller A. Miller, Coordinator of the Mind the Gap Sunday, introduced the goal of raising \$2 million for youth, young adult, and campus ministry. She thanked the membership for their support and asked them to communicate with the UUA regarding the dates they plan to celebrate this special Sunday.

10. CENTER Committee Report **Paul Ratzlaff** P. Ratzlaff honored Makanah Morriss, Jory Agate and Kenn Hurto who are ending their service on CENTER. He highlighted CENTER's commitment to anti-racism, anti-oppression, and multicultural work. There is a new program that CENTER offers which is beyond entry level. CENTER has developed its programs in response to input from colleagues, such as the program for ministers entering their first settlement, and the retreat for mid-career ministers. Next year, there will be a pre-GA spirituality retreat which is being organized by our colleague, Christine Robinson. CENTER is also exploring how to use new technology to enhance its work. Springs and Currents will soon be available on the UUMA website. They are also exploring the role of chatrooms. He expressed his appreciation of the current CENTER team.

11. Report of the Office of Church Staff Finance **Ralph Mero** R. Mero expressed his thanks to Judy Mannheim and Robert Walsh for their participation on the Concil on Church Staff Finance. They will be retiring and the Exec will appoint replacements. He spoke about the Council and the UUA's and UUMA's support for the compensation project. The next survey will take place in January 2003 with a new salary schedule coming out in June. Congregations will be able to respond to the survey online. Several UUA Districts have already recognized congregations who have achieved the Fair Compensation Congregation status. They will also be recognized at this GA. He highlighted the current court conversation regarding the clergy housing allowance and the new congressional act. The good news is that the tax break on the allowance is now enshrined in Federal Law. The not so good news is that the amount of the allowance has gone back to the fair rental value plus actual expenses. He reported that all ministers and treasurers will soon be receiving a mailing from Fidelity Investments regarding provisions for participation in the plan. He noted the increasing concern of unmanageable student debt. Debt reduction grants this year totaled more than \$200,000 and went to over 100 colleagues. Retirement issues will be a more and more central topic in the future.

12. Wayne Robinson Appeal **Kendyl Gibbons** K. Gibbons asked the tellers to come forward and help distribute the leaflets from the UUMA Exec and Wayne Robinson. She then outlined the process to be used for consideration of this issue. K. Gibbons then spoke on behalf of the Exec, highlighting the Exec's history with this matter. She put the following motion before the assembled body: **The 2002 Annual Meeting of the UUMA upholds the determination of the UUMA Executive Committee of June 2001 regarding the suspension of Wayne Robinson's membership in the UUMA.**

W. Robinson was invited to come forward to speak on behalf of his appeal. G. Woods then came forward to remind the UUMA of its role in this matter, that the UUMA as a body does not have the power to decide if someone is a Unitarian Universalist or

whether or not they can serve a congregation. The only determination the UUMA can make is whether or not we countenance such behavior in our members according to our covenant with one another. She then opened the floor for questions and comments. Discussion ensued. K. Gibbons clarified that we need to vote on the presented motion today, but that the Exec would be receptive to other creative proposals for lifting the suspension at another time. K. Gibbons called for the vote. The ballots were then collected by the tellers. The motion passed by 273 yes's to 64 no's with 26 abstentions.

13. Other Business

13. a. Planned Parenthood

M. Edminston-Lange came forward to present the comprehensive sexuality statement from Planned Parenthood for adoption by the UUMA. (See www.plannedparenthood.org/newsletters/clergyvoices.) **MSP that the Unitarian Universalist Ministers' Association adopt and support the Planned Parenthood Federation of America Advisory Board Statement on Comprehensive Sexuality Education of April 2002. Passed.**

13. b. The Middle East Situation

P. Sawyer came forward to move a resolution regarding the Middle East. This resolution was approved at the PSWUUMA Business meeting, Tucson, Arizona 4/ 26/ 2002 by a 21-4 vote, with 5 abstentions. The resolution reads as follows:

We call for an end to the use of violence by our own nation and others.

We support the use of international law, the world courts, and United Nations policing and peace-keeping as the immediate means of addressing violence and terrorism in our world.

We advocate the redirecting of our half a trillion/ year military budget into a "Marshall Plan" type economic development program; health, housing, educational resources and cooperative industry, both here at home and around the world.

As our religions teach us: Peace is the way to peace; and love is its method. A

vote was called. Motion failed.

14. Report of Election Tellers, Announcement of incoming UUMA Exec Members, Recognitions and Thanks

M. Belletini moved a **motion of appreciation and deep thanks to Marge Corletti for her service to the MFC on behalf of the UUMA.** Motion passed by acclamation.

K. Gibbons publicly thanked outgoing Exec members, Kate Walker and Polly Leland-Mayer, and welcomed incoming members Wendy Fish and Bob Schaibly.

15. Adjournment

Kendyl Gibbons

MSP to adjourn the meeting at 11:23 a.m. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Lisa Friedman
UUMA secretary