

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST MINISTERS' ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING
Draft Minutes
Thursday, June 26, 2003
Boston, Massachusetts

1. Call to Order Kendyl Gibbons, President

K. Gibbons, UUMA President, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and noted that a quorum was present. She invited R. Nelson to give an update on the health of our colleague, Ray Manker.

2. Approval of 2002 Annual Meeting Minutes Lisa Friedman

MSP to approve the 2002 Annual Meeting minutes as presented.

Passed unanimously.

3. Appointment of Parliamentarian & Time Keeper Kendyl Gibbons

Daniel Simer O'Connell was appointed parliamentarian. Mark Christian was 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: for the Exec President-Elect Ken Sawyer, Treasurer Kathleen Ellis, Publications and Online Communications Roger Brewin, Secretary Mark Christian, CENTER Representative Wayne Walder; for the Nominating Committee Carol Haag and Karen Stoyanoff. He thanked the Nominating Committee for their good work.

MSP to move the slate.

Passed unanimously. K. Gibbons expressed the UUMA's thanks to Liz Strong and Dave Sammons for their nominating work on our behalf and presented them with UUMA pins in appreciation.

7. President's Report Kendyl Gibbons

K. Gibbons began her report with some personal reflections on the nature of this work and on the challenges of doing ministry during a year of war and national tension. She expressed deep appreciation to our colleagues who say "yes" to opportunities to serve the UUMA in addition to all their other responsibilities. She welcomed our international colleagues from Great Britain, New Zealand and the Khasi Hills of India and invited them to stand and be recognized. She announced the formation of the new UUMA Canadian chapter (UUMOC) and welcomed them. She called attention to the written reports in the meeting packet. She corrected that Elea Kemler and Robert McKetchnie are our current representatives to the Council on Church Staff and Finances and thanked Judy Mannheim for her service on the Council as she completes her term.

8. Treasurer's Report, Adoption of 2003-2004 Budget Roger Jones

R. Jones called the membership's attention to the proposed budget. He gave a brief review of the deficit budget and fund balance, and highlighted the fact that membership dues have fallen off through flat growth and high waiver demand. He then entertained questions. Discussion included encouragement for the Exec to consider a balanced budget, better communication with candidates who did not receive a membership invitation, questions about the dues situation and membership total, suggestions that we include the chapters in the waiver conversation.

MS to increase the UUMA membership dues by \$10. Discussion ensued.

Motion failed. K. Gibbons assured the body that the Exec has taken note of the interest of the membership in the question of dues.

MSP to adopt the 2003-04 budget.

Passed unanimously.

9. Report on Executive Committee Projects

9. a. Field Staff Issues Lisa Friedman

L. Friedman reported on Joint UUMA/LREDA Task Force on question and process of ways our members on Field Staff are reviewed and their working conditions. The final report is pending review by the LREDA board. Field Staff (and former Field Staff) who have yet to be contacted are urged to contact Task Force Members. Field Staff in presence were identified, thanked and given a rose.

9. b. Specialties Project Roberta Nelson

R. Nelson gave a report on the work of the UUMA Task Force on Categories and noted that their final report is available on the UUMA website. It is now in the hands of the MFC. She assured the membership that there is no plan currently in place which will not grandfather those who are currently involved in the present process as it exists. She noted the opportunities left at this GA to express questions, ideas, and concerns and welcomed people to contact her directly.

9. c. Guidelines Committee Gretchen Woods

G. Woods presented the report of the newly appointed Guidelines Committee in the Pacific Northwest District, who will have an article in the next newsletter regarding their work. Issues they are working on include honoraria, suggestions from the Committee on Ministry for Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression, Multiculturalism, the addition of language relevant to community ministry, a review of the sexual ethics guidelines, background checks and copy right issues of a minister's written work.

9. d. Committee on Ministry Patricia Jiménez for Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression and Multiculturalism

P. Jiménez expressed public appreciation to John Gilmore, who had to step down from this portfolio for health reasons. She introduced the current members of the Committee, including new member Hope Johnson, and gave some background. A written report of the Committee's work was passed out. They will also be focusing on the issues of economic justice and classism, multiculturalism and issues of membership in the UUMA. She reported on the joint meeting with staff members from the Ministry and Professional Leadership Group and the productiveness of that conversation.

10. Report and Resolution from the Taskforce on Social Responsible Investing Sydney Morris

S. Morris reported on the Task Force's focus and work over the past few years. Over 100 people responded to their survey. They passed out a written copy of their report which was sent out to chapters for ongoing discussion. She announced a meeting in the Moderator's suite this GA for those who are interested in joining this work. There is a matching grant program through the UUA's committee on this work for congregations who are engaged in this work.

She then called Ken Brown forward to present the Task force's motion.

MSP that the Unitarian Universalist Ministers' Association respectfully requests that the office of Church/Staff finances, the UU Council on Church/Staff Finances, the UUA Committee on Compensation, Benefits, and Pensions, the UUA Committee on Socially Responsible Investing and Jerry Gabert, review and inform themselves about Fidelity, and particularly about Fidelity's proxy voting record, in light of our UU principles, our UUA Social Justice Statements (also called UUA resolutions and statements of conscience) and the UUA policy on socially responsible investing and report back no later than the UUA Annual Meeting 2004 in Long Beach, California.

Passed unanimously.

11. CENTER Committee Report Paul Ratzlaff

P. Ratzlaff began his report with appreciation to Gretchen Woods for her excellent work as the UUMA CENTER Representative. He welcomed Lynn Ungar as the incoming CENTER chair and new members Roberta Finkelstein and Wayne Walder. He invited people to check the CENTER website and the grid of ministerial development. He highlighted CENTER's anti-racism, anti-oppression, and multiculturalism commitment and some of the new presenter offerings. The pre-GA spirituality retreat was successful and another is being planned for next year and a mid-career retreat remains a possibility, if there is sufficient interest. Ian Evison on the CENTER committee is trying to collect ideas and suggestions of how CENTER can better serve our community ministers. K. Gibbons presented him with a UUMA pin in appreciation of his service on CENTER and as chair over the years.

12. Report of the Office of Church Staff Finance Ralph Mero

R. Mero emphasized the seriousness and significance of several issues before our ministry: student debt (\$60,000 of debt reduction grants were awarded this year); the financial needs of ministers from historically marginalized groups; and the status or revoking of the status of new salary guidelines approved in April by the UUA Board. He expressed particular concern of this last development. Ongoing information is available on the UUA website under the Ministry and Professional Leadership Staff Group and in the Board minutes which are posted.

13. Message from Diane Olson

D. Olson was not present at this time.

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

K. Gibbons announced that the offering received this morning exceeded \$13,000. She called the current Exec members forward to be recognized.

15. Recognitions and Thanks

K Gibbons recognized and thanked Exec members who have reached the end of their terms. She presented them with flowers and UUMA pins. She then introduced the incoming members of the Exec and thanked Peter Boullata for his time of service as UUMA Administrator. She gave special thanks to Wendy Fish and Kate Walker for their arrangements work on our behalf here in Boston. R. Nelson gave thanks for K. Gibbon's work as President.

16. Adjournment Kendyl Gibbons

K. Gibbons declared the meeting adjourned at 11:55. a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Lisa Friedman
UUMA secretary