

# MINUTES

## All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church Special Congregational Meeting

January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011

12:30 p.m. – 1:20 p.m.

Susan Bettinger called the meeting to order, after a quorum was established. Clay Walker served as Parliamentarian.

Susan called Amanda Lawrence to begin the budget discussion.

**2011 Budget:** The congregation was again presented with an unbalanced budget, but this time, after a number of members submitted their pledges and others increased theirs, we were \$3,874 short of the desired amount needed.

The congregation was given three options to consider:

- a) We would need to increase fundraising above what we already have to help offset the deficit.
- b) Dip into the savings when needed.
- c) Go back to the budget and decrease expenditures, already lean as it is.

The congregation was then asked to submit ideas for discussion.

### Pledges:

Again, questions were asked as to how many people or units have submitted their pledges and how many have not. Answer: 90 units submitted and 22 have not as of January 9<sup>th</sup>.

### Ideas of the congregation:

- Dave McCarty suggested that if we would only send a form to every pledge unit to just increase their pledges by \$133.00 (a little over \$10.00 per month) we could make up the difference.
- Ron Thurston thinks that we should have fundraisers, and not dip into the savings. We would need more fundraisers above what we already have, since like Barbara Jarrell reminded us, the non-operating budget is funded by money from fundraisers.
- Jonathan Gibson suggested that we should return to do our own yard maintenance, that the Building and Grounds committee could perform the service and save money that way. Barbara Jarrell informed the congregation that all of our yard equipment has been stolen more than once, and that we have over two acres to maintain.

- Joshua Lawrence suggested having volunteers take over the duties of nursery care. This idea had lukewarm reception, since the nursery workers were considered vital, and it is always very difficult to find volunteers to take over; it would also be an extra burden on Susan Caldwell to handle.

Ron Thurston moved to approve the budget as presented, and David Seale seconded.

The question was called for further discussion.

Questions were asked if we had to dip into the savings, would we have to have another congregational meeting to approve using the savings. Laurie Lyons clarified that the Board can deal with up to 5% of the budget, that way we could dip into the savings' and fundraisers' monies without returning for congregational approval.

Jonathan Gibson had qualms about approving the budget as is. He would prefer to cut expenses now (staff positions), and if we have money at end of year, then we could think of reinstating the positions that were cut.

John Ratcliff suggested that we should adopt the budget as is, make every effort with fundraisers to make up the difference, and if at the end of the year we have to dip into the savings, then that's what we have to do.

Robert Smith called for voting on the question. A yes vote would end the debate; a nay vote would continue the discussions. The question was called, 28 members voted yes, 9 members voted no, and 2 abstained. The motion was then brought up for approval.

Motion:

John Ratcliff motioned to approve the budget as presented; Betty Parent seconded. The motion was approved, with 3 opposing and 2 abstaining.

Amanda Lawrence then asked the congregation for volunteers to work in the office to help keep our office duties running in the absence of an office manager. They were asked to report to Virginia Villarreal, who would be the Office Volunteer Coordinator.

**Adjournment**

Amanda Lawrence then moved to adjourn, seconded by Laurie Lyons. The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.