

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - JANUARY 8, 2017

Connie Diamant, President, called the meeting to order at 11:20 a.m. A quorum of more than 42 members was present.

Connie and Pledge Captain John Hall reminded members that the Pledge Kick-Off event would take place on February 25 and would include a musical component.

Rev. Scott Sammler-Michael welcomed our former ministerial intern, Pratima Dharma and announced that this meeting's motivating purpose was to vote on supporting her coordinating with Cedar Lane UU. He recognized the presence of several members of the Ministerial Intern Support Committee. He outlined the rigorous elements of ministerial development to ordination required by UUA and indicated that Pratima had achieved a #1 score from the UUA Committee. A vote was taken and approved unanimously. It was announced that the ordination ceremony for Pratima Dharma would take place on March 26 at Cedar Lane UUC.

Pratima joined the congregation and expressed her thanks for our assistance on her journey towards ordination. She said that we were a great teaching congregation and that Rev. Scott was a great teacher and pastor. Rev. Scott concluded by pointing out that supporting the ministerial internship program by mentoring an intern was a valuable way that the congregation could give back to the UUA by helping develop ministers for our fellow congregations.

Rev. Scott mentioned that we should look out for a communication from the Social Justice Committee which would be seeking feedback and wordsmithing from us on two UU Statements of Conscience -- 1) Corruption in Our Democracy and 2) Economic Inequality.

Dick Robison gave a report on the status of the budget. Income from the Auction was about \$9,130 below our expectations. In addition, there arose un-budgeted expenses this year - rodent infestation (\$1,500), purchase of defibrillator (\$1,245), loss of the Karate Club tenant at the end of January (\$7200 annually and \$3000 for this year), and an increase in utilities from a hot summer and the delayed installation of the new HVAC system (\$2000). The total for unanticipated increases in expenses was \$16,875.

However, there have been some favorable offsets. Conversion of the existing balloon mortgage to a 15- year fixed-rate created savings by eliminating periodic refinancing charges, avoiding future rate increases and taking advantage of current historically low interest rates. This should save \$4700 this year and \$9,430 annually. Replacement of the obsolete and unreliable HVAC system is expected to save at least 40% of prior electrical utility costs - \$1,700 this year and about \$8,500 annually in future years. The new HVAC system may be turned on as early as tomorrow. This spring, new exterior doors will be installed, increasing handicap accessibility.

Thanks were extended to members who contributed about \$90,000 above pledges, getting us back on track for a good budget year:

Web site improvement (\$10,000) - Shirley Lotz

Gifts for HVAC and replacement doors (\$25,500) - Suzy Porth, Ray and Jessica Burmester, Dick Elliott, Jan Clement, Valeria Colvil, Claire Brown, Shelley Brosnan, Rosemary Waring, Nancy Davis, Oliver and Lynn Easterwood, Doty Smith and the Williams.

Loans for HVAC and replacement doors (\$51,000) - Linda Kato, Jan Clement, Moe Moser, Peter and Michelle Kahle, Bill and Gloria Smith, Thom Larson and Bruce Griffin.

"Close the Auction Gap" (\$12,000 +)- Doty Smith, Ken Heller, Mary Rose Janya, Steve and Ellen Wise, Judy Stah, Ladler and Peter Campbell, Jennifer Dean, Sandy Beeson, Jerry and Mary Sherman, Ed and Anna Cochrane, Judy Usherson, Moe Moser, Jan Forsyth, Joann JoAnn and Paul Flanagan, David and Diane Clayton. Judy Clarke, John Simmons, Ellen Fischer, Michelle Kahle, Jim Girard, Connie Diamant, Lisa and Tom Hayes, Jean Heilwege, Dick and Judy Robison, Rev. Scott, Valerie and Al Colvill, Suzy Porth, Charles and Amy Tomasco, Ed and Mary Kringer, Marsha and Glen White, John and Anna Maria Long, Julie Floyd, Steve and Susan Brown, Debbie and Tom Cohen, Jane Mintz, and Claire Brown.

Anticipated for next year's budget: staff compensation improvements which were deferred this year; paving and lighting improvements in the parking lot; and completion of painting in the downstairs hallways.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by, Jan Forsyth, acting Secretary