

DRAFT
Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Corporation
Unitarian Church in Charleston
May 16, 2010

1. **Call to Order:** A quorum was announced, and Karen opened the meeting.
2. **Opening words:** Danny offered opening words to set the tone of the meeting.
3. **Minutes:** Minutes of the May 2009 annual meeting were approved, and the special corporate meeting in February 2010 were approved as corrected.
4. **Minister's report:** Danny presented an overview of the progress the church has made in its focus on the goals set by the Bold Steps and in the harmonious working of so many members and friends.
5. **Comments on the Year:** Karen Abrams, outgoing Vestry chair, summed up the commitment shown by the congregation after the resignation of Rev. Lanzillotta. Much work has been done to continue our efforts on initiatives underway and bring about the long-awaited restoration of the sanctuary. She thanked everyone for their contributions.
6. **Nominations for the Vestry:** Paul Garbarini, chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the nominees: Warren (Trip) Banner, Diane Boyer, and Todd Frech. They were elected by unanimous acclamation.
7. **Nominations for the Transition Committee:** Paul presented the nominees to begin the process of assessing the congregation's sense of our progress in the objectives under Rev. Reed's consulting ministry. Their findings will lead in to the congregation's decision on the direction for ministry later in the 2010-2011 church year. Nominees are Michael Carnell, George Castaño, Kaye Finch, Jean Pendleton, and Priscilla Shumway. The nominees were approved by unanimous acclamation.
8. **Nominations for the Endowment Investment Board:** Paul presented Ellie Setser to serve a three-year term. She was elected for a one-year last year, and this term will be for the full three years. Ellie was elected by unanimous acclamation.
9. **Nominations for the Nominating Committee:** The Vestry's nominations were approved without additional nominations from the floor: Carol Furtwangler, Paul Garbarini, Betsy Grund, Carol Oates, and Cris Sumpter.
10. **Thanks to retiring Vestry and Nominating Committee Members:** Richard Hayes thanked the nominating committee for their work. For the Vestry members, he presented gifts in appreciation.

11. By-Law Change to allow proxy voting: Emilie Carey presented a motion to amend Article V, Section 2, of the constitution to allow voting by proxy. The primary points of disagreement remained the same as last year: on the one hand, the desire to allow absent members to have a voice in corporate meetings, and on the other, the need to be present at meetings in order to make a more informed decision. An amendment was presented to specify that (A) the Vestry would define the special circumstances under which a proxy would be allowed, and (B) proxy holders would be limited to only one proxy. The amendment passed. The motion as amended, needing a 2/3 vote, failed by a vote of 61 to 32.

12. 2010-2011 Budget: The budget was approved without change. Nancy Simpson expressed concern about our continued use of Endowment funds for operating expenses. Karen's replied that until the sufficient amount is pledged, we need to continue and that, in fact, this year's budget contains a smaller amount from these funds. Endowment Investment Board policy caps the amount that can be used for the operating budget.

13. Sanctuary Restoration: As information only, since this issue was approved last February, Charlie Miller presented an update on the budget for the restoration, which begins tomorrow. The budget is remarkably low, given the time that has passed since architect Glenn Keyes last worked up estimates. Stan Goldberg presented the figures on the fundraising that closed the gap between funds on hand and funds needed, declaring it the easiest fundraising he's ever done. There were questions on several items, but no opposition.

14. New business

A. Pew cushion refurbishment: With the restoration of the sanctuary, funds are available for new carpet and for the restoration of the pew cushions. With thanks to Anna Stephens for her work on the pew cushions, the congregation approved the expenditure of up to \$16,000 for the work. Thanks went also to Anne Lindsey for her donation of funds to cover cushions for the choir chairs.

B. Gage Hall Access Project: John Meffert presented the architectural designs for creating handicap access through the front north side of Gage Hall. This would make a safer and more dignified entryway with a minimum of change to the front. Susan Conant expressed her wish that handicap access for the Sanctuary could be included, but Charlie pointed out that Buildings and Grounds had estimates of over \$100,000, a prohibitive amount that would delay the Sanctuary restoration and ultimately increase that cost as well. The motion passed with some nays heard.

15. Adjournment: Having no additional business, Karen adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Sally Newell, Secretary