UUFBC Special Meeting

Called to order at noon, Oct 18, 2015

The UUFBC board president Cathy Rifenburg called to order a special congregational meeting to discuss the findings of the search committee tasked with hiring a part-time consulting minister. A quorum of 24 members was needed to carry any vote, and 38 members were in attendance.

Fellowship members were welcomed and the agenda for the meeting explained including a quick a review of Roberts Rules of Order. The meeting was called to allow members to decide the next steps for the board to take since in its task to search for a minister this year.

The original target date to hire a minister was not scheduled as part of the congregation’s 5-year-plan and not targeted until August 2017. However that target had been moved to spring 2016. It was a bold move that would have required a 32 percent increase in the fellowship’s annual budget, board president Cathy Rifenburg said. In reality the pledge committee only garnered an 11 percent increase in the annual budget which left a significant shortfall to meet the target. Another $8,500 was raised specifically to provide money for the minister hire. Donors agreed to allow those funds to be saved in a special fund until needed.

According to treasurer Chris Dixon the fellowship would have to have a minimum of one year’s salary plus benefits in the budget before the fellowship could even advertise for a minister, according to the UUA. The estimate is $43,000-$47,000 which includes salary, insurance and money for the search committee to complete its mission. So far, the fellowship has only about $12,000 toward meeting the necessary funds which includes the special one-time bump.

After about 30 minutes of questions and answers followed a brief of what would need to happen to continue the search for a minister at this time.

A motion was made and seconded “move that the fellowship delay the ministerial search until the board of directors determines that there are sufficient financial resources.”

The vote was 27-0 in favor of adapting the motion.