

2017 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF THE UUHHS
MINUTES
12-1:30 pm July 29
First Parish in Watertown

Attendance: Colin Bossen, Barbara Coeyman, Steve Cook, Phoebe Cos, Mark Harris, Earl Holt, John Marsh, Dan McKanan, Kathy Parker Rosemarie Smurzynski, Rich Stower, Liz Strong, Tom Wintle

Election: We elected the following officers:

President: Earl Holt (re-election)
Vice President: Mark Harris (re-election)
Board Members: Barbara Coeyman (re-election), Patrice Curtis, Mark Hicks,
Kathy Parker (re-election), Rali Weaver

Note: Dan McKanan (secretary), Steve Cook (treasurer), Colin Bossen, Phoebe Cos, and Nicole Kirk are serving terms that expire in 2018.

Reports

Earl reported that the board has adopted a deficit budget for 2017-2018, but are hoping to restore balance soon through redoubled efforts on membership recruitment and retention.

Kathy reported on the *Journal of UU History*. We had an excellent issue this spring, and the next issue will feature many of the papers presented at the 2016 History Convocation in the Twin Cities. The theme was Unitarian and Universalist expansion in the west, focusing both on key individuals and on themes of imperialism and expropriation of native lands. Tisa Wenger of Yale Divinity School and Rosemary Bray McNatt of Starr King gave keynotes, and both these talks will be included in the journal. Some additional presentations will be available at the Convo website.

Mark reported on the Twin Cities Convo, the third we have offered on an every three years basis. He was extremely impressed with the quality of the presentations. Our attendance of about 75 was smaller than the previous convo, which was a disappointment. He thanked Kathy Parker for her role in obtaining grant funding from the UU Funding Panel. All of our Convos have been cosponsored with Collegium.

Barbara reported on plans for the 2019 Convo. It will be in partnership with UU Collegium and the Universalism 2020 team, marking the 250th anniversary of Universalism in North America. It will probably be in the Baltimore area in October 2019, marking both the bicentennial of the Baltimore Sermon and the Universalism 250th.

Phoebe reported on the newsletter. We will issue three newsletters in the coming year, and welcome any reports of upcoming events and activities.

Rosemarie reported on the restoration of the William Ellery Channing monument. Interest began when Collegium 2015 toured Mount Auburn Cemetery. We sought to raise \$7500 and got almost \$9000, with the excess to be devoted to ongoing upkeep of the monument. The team of

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Stephanie May, Mark Harris, and Helen Cohen (plus Rosemarie) were outstanding in raising funds. Stephanie's initiative in setting up the Faithify campaign was especially helpful. There will be a celebration of this on Sunday, October 1, 1:30 pm, at the cemetery, beginning in the Chapel with a walk to and from the monument itself. Rosemarie also mentioned her upcoming sermon at First Church Boston on Phebe Hanaford.

Dan reported that Harvard Divinity School will honor the life of Henry David Thoreau in the year of his 200th birthday, and UUHHS is cosponsoring the event. On September 14th, the authors of two new books -- Laura Dassow Walls, author of *Henry David Thoreau: A Life* and Richard Higgins, author of *Thoreau and the Language of Trees* -- will join a panel to discuss his life and work. Respondents include Barry Andrews, a Unitarian Universalist minister who is the author of several books on Transcendentalism and a longtime participant in the Thoreau Society, and Terry Tempest Williams, who is an author, conservationist, and activist who will be a writer in residence at HDS during the 2017-18 academic year. This event will be at 7 pm in the Sperry Room at Harvard Divinity School, with a reception to follow.

Mark Harris reported on the recent illness of Peter Richardson, and on the fact that Peter's beautiful new book on Unitarianism and Universalism in Maine will soon be released. It includes photographs of all the churches in Maine.

Rosemarie mentioned the new volume of essays on the uses of history, published by the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Approval of Minutes

We unanimously approved the minutes of the 2016 annual meeting.