

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP of LONGVIEW**  
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING  
SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2009  
**MINUTES**

Huey called the meeting to order At 12:50 pm by lighting the chalice.

Celeste agreed to be Timekeeper. Betty Ready and Brenda volunteered to be mic runners. Liza Ely helped the congregation to develop a covenant regarding behaviors that would be adhered to during the meeting. It was unanimously agreed to.

The minutes from the May 11, 2008 were reviewed. Jerry Kircus made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted. Jessica seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously by voice vote.

Huey introduced the first order of business, the suggested changes to the by-laws. Ruth explained that the first two changes were simply "housekeeping" issues to make the name of our Fellowship appear the same in all instances and to concur with what is on record with the state of Texas for 501c(3) purposes.

Jerry gave background information about the reasoning that occurred behind the present Article III items under consideration.

After discussion by several members, a motion was made and seconded to accept the following changes:

**Page Title:**

"BY-LAWS OF THE UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP OF LONGVIEW"

**Change to:** "BY-LAWS of the UNITARIAN **UNIVERSALIST** FELLOWSHIP OF LONGVIEW."

**ARTICLE I: NAME**

"The name of this religious society shall be Unitarian Fellowship of Longview."

**Change to:** "The name of this religious society shall be Unitarian **Universalist** Fellowship of Longview."

**ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP**

Any person may become a voting member of this Fellowship who is in sympathy with its purpose and program, has read the membership by-laws, has signed the Fellowship record book, makes an annual **prescribed** contribution of record, and is eighteen years of age or older.

**Change to:** "Any person may become a voting member of this Fellowship who is in sympathy with its purpose and program, has read the membership by-laws, has signed the Fellowship record book, makes an annual contribution of record, and is eighteen years of age or older."

**Prescribed** Contribution, as stated in this Article, shall be defined as an amount contributed which is greater than the amount paid by the Fellowship for dues and assessments as required by Article IV attributable to the membership of the individual.

**Change to:** "Contribution, as stated in this Article, shall be defined as service and/or financial donation to the Fellowship as the member determines he or she is able."

Membership is terminated with the death of a member. Membership is terminated with the resignation of a member. The resignation shall be effective on the date specified in the resignation. If no date is specified, the resignation shall be effective when received by the Secretary. Membership may be terminated by majority vote of the congregation at a regular business meeting of the congregation upon the recommendation of the Governing Board. The Governing Board may base its recommendation on any of the following situations:

- member moves out of the area, or
- member has not been involved either through attendance or ~~prescribed~~ contribution of record for a period of at least one year, or
- such other reasons as the Governing Board may deem appropriate.

**Change to:** Membership is terminated with the death of a member. Membership is terminated with the resignation of a member. The resignation shall be effective on the date specified in the resignation. If no date is specified, the resignation shall be effective when received by the Secretary. Membership is terminated when a member moves out of the area. Membership is terminated when a member has not been involved either through attendance or contribution of record for a period of at least one year.

The Governing Board may recommend that a membership be terminated for such other reasons it deems necessary. To remove a member for such other reasons will be the responsibility of the voting members of the congregation by majority vote at a Congregational Business Meeting.

The Treasurer then presented the 2009-2010 budget. Betty Ready asked why Housekeeping was \$0 last fiscal year and \$900 this fiscal year. Huey explained that Holly had cleaned the building as her contribution during fiscal year 2008-2009. When she stopped doing so, Chip, as Building Manager, found someone to clean the building once a month and it is necessary to pay them.

Huey noted that there is an approximately \$10,000 shortfall between the budget and what we have received in pledges for the coming fiscal year. He believes that we will remain financially viable because some friends and members prefer not to pledge but give generously and regularly; and, there is a "cushion" of approximately \$35,000 in our Financial Accounts as shown on our Balance Sheet. Also, we are having a Garage Sale in June.

Austin asked why the budget reflected \$0 for the Reserve Fund for 2009-2010. Huey explained that the Reserve Fund is not an "expense" but is what is left over at the end of the month. Therefore, no prescribed amount is budgeted. If our outgo is less than our income, we would put \$100 of that in the Reserve Fund. Austin reiterated the importance and wisdom of delegating a set percentage of income to the Reserve Fund. Huey acknowledged the wisdom of that way of thinking. However, we are not dealing with a fixed amount of income like a paycheck. We are dealing with an unknown amount of donations. We must, therefore, save when we have excess but accept that we cannot prescribe a specific amount.

Celeste Fisher volunteered to clean the building once a month in order to remove the \$900 expense from the budget. Gelene said removing the \$900 for Housekeeping from the budget would leave no money for cleaning supplies. Huey explained that "cleaning" was budgeted under

"Housekeeping" and cleaning supplies were budgeted under "Office and Building Supplies." One is labor and the other is supplies.

Jay made the motion to accept the budget as presented. Jerry seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously by voice vote.

We then proceeded to electing the 2009-2010 Governing Board. The slate was presented as follows:

President:	Ruth Semrau
Vice President:	Marolen Mullinax
Secretary:	Sky Mitchell
Treasurer:	Huey Mitchell
Member-at-Large:	Amanda Koepke
Member-at-Large:	Chip Koepke
Member-at-Large:	Tina Rushing
Member-at-Large:	Celeste Fisher

Nominations from the floor were requested. Don Eakin nominated Jessica Noble for President.

A count of members present was made. There were 22 (twenty-two) members present.

There had been 10 (ten) requests for proxy votes.

Three of those requests were made by people who also chose to attend the meeting.

The only contested position was that of President of the Governing Board. Therefore, a motion was made and seconded to accept the ballot for all positions on the board as presented except for president. It was passed unanimously by voice vote.

Therefore, twenty-nine ballots were distributed. Philip and Martha were entrusted with counting the ballots.

After doing so, they returned to the congregation and announced the following results:

Jessica Noble - 16 (sixteen) votes

Ruth Semrau - 13 (thirteen) votes

The UUFL Governing Board for fiscal year 2009-2010 will be:

President:	Jessica Noble
Vice President:	Marolen Mullinax
Secretary:	Sky Mitchell
Treasurer:	Huey Mitchell
Member-at-Large:	Amanda Koepke
Member-at-Large:	Chip Koepke
Member-at-Large:	Tina Rushing
Member-at-Large:	Celeste Fisher

Brenda stated that it was a privilege to be a part of this democratic process.

Richard said that if the Fellowship wanted him back, he would return as our Music Director and play the piano for us most Sundays. Voice approval was given.

Huey adjourned the meeting at 2:10 pm.

Sky Mitchell, Secretary  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Longview