

Decorah UU
Minutes of the Annual Meeting
The Lingonberry
May 5, 2019

1. **Brief Service**
2. **Call to Order** – Bill Pardee called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m.
3. **Approval of 2018 Minutes** – Carolyn Corbin moved and Matthew Alexander seconded that the previous year’s Annual Meeting minutes be approved. Karen Esterl moved that full names be used for institutional memory and that the 2018 minutes and subsequent years include last names. Cathy Pardee seconded the motion. The motion carried. The previous motion to approve the 2018 minutes (to be revised) also carried.
4. **Approval of Agenda** – Karen Esterl moved and Shawn Dettmann seconded that the 2019 Annual Meeting Agenda be approved. The motion carried with 26 members present.
5. **Brief Oral Reports**
 - a. Chair Report – Bill Pardee acknowledged several people for their service to Decorah UU:
 - i. Mike Vermace, for getting the Lingonberry ready for the Fellowship’s use;
 - ii. Bruce Jordan, for changing our insurance from Bethania to the Lingonberry;
 - iii. Matthew Alexander, for working toward a permanent Decorah UU decal in a Lingonberry window;
 - iv. Carolyn Corbin, for working with the Sue Peterson Memorial Fund to improve the sound system in the Lingonberry;
 - v. Julie Ohde, for her work with the Decorah UU website and including current editions of by-laws & policies there;
 - vi. Sue Otte, Anastacia Cowles, Bill Musser and John Hall, for serving on the committee to aid the Board in establishing a Memorial Policy.
 - b. Sunday Services Committee Report – Sue Otte read her report, acknowledging the other SSC members with whom she works: Karen Esterl and Ellen Macdonald. She noted that Decorah UU programming depends on all of us working together as part of a lay-led congregation.
 - c. Membership Report – Detra Dettmann thanked Sue Otte and other Decorah UU mentors for their help with Membership. She reported that three new members joined the Fellowship in the last year and that another will join next Sunday. She mentioned her appreciation for the new nametags and noted that the Membership Committee includes everyone in the role of greeting and welcoming visitors. She reported that Decorah UU averages about five visitors a Sunday.
 - d. OWL Program Report & Discussion – Beth Wahlberg reported that we didn’t offer OWL classes this year after losing Alicia Trout as our coordinator. Lara Martinsen-Burrell has since said that she will take on the leadership role for OWL, with Beth serving as the Board liaison to the program.

6. **Treasurer's Report & Proposed Budget** – Beth Wahlberg highlighted three funds:
- a. the NOW account, which includes the Let's Talk grant, which may be returned to the grant provider;
 - b. OWL;
 - c. Savings.

Other Decorah UU funds are designated for specific purposes. The main reason we exceeded our budget this year is because of Lingonberry renovations. Beth is trying to contact Dennis Darling about his verbally designated Building Fund, to see if we could use it to replace what we spent on the Lingonberry renovations. Neil Martinsen-Burrell moved and Bill Pardee seconded that the Treasurer's Report and Proposed Budget be approved. The motion carried.

7. **Election Items**

- a. Board Members (vote for two):

Beth Wahlberg
Maggie Hayden

Julie Fischer moved and Lara Martinsen-Burrell seconded that the Board member nominations be accepted. The motion carried.

- b. Members of Nominating Committee (vote for two):

Lalie Madriguera
Lynn Pleggenkuhle

Karen Esterl moved and Matthew Alexander seconded that the Nominating Committee nominations be accepted. The motion carried.

8. **Shall we have weekly services year round?** – Karen Esterl moved and Detra Dettmann seconded that we have services every Sunday through the summer. Fellowship members discussed the motion, touching on: concern for extra planning responsibility; summer absences due to travel; appreciation for a lighter summer schedule. Sue Otte suggested amending the motion to offer another approach: using the Lingonberry without having a full-fledged service every time, such as having a coffee Sunday. Bill Pardee moved and Julie Fischer seconded amending Karen Esterl's motion to reflect Sue Otte's suggestion: that half of summer meetings be lighter fare, unstructured and informal, with no need of Otter Dreaming's presence, and leaving it up to the Sunday Services Committee to determine which Sundays are which. The amendment was voted down with one Aye and all others Nay. Fellowship members continued to discuss Karen Esterl's motion, touching on: desire for a formal, structured service every week; desire for an opportunity to simply be together and discuss things that might not come up in a formal setting; having a consistent location and meeting time; extra childcare; confusion about "on" Sundays and "off" Sundays. Shawn Dettmann called the question. Karen Esterl's motion was repeated. There were 20 Aye votes and 5 Nay votes. The motion carried. Fellowship members continued to discuss the motion briefly after the vote, agreeing that the motion did not preclude everyone's views being respected and included to some extent, and that an every-Sunday service schedule can alternate between formal and casual in a way that can be anticipated.

9. **Adjournment** – Neil Martinsen-Burrell moved and Karen Esterl seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

10. Service closure

Respectfully submitted by
Otter Dreaming
Decorah UU Fellowship Coordinator