

**Unity Church-Unitarian  
Special Meeting of the Congregation  
Saturday, April 7, 2012 • 10:00 a.m.**

The Board of Trustees has called a Special Meeting of the Congregation for Saturday, April 7, at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary of Unity Church.

The Board will call for a vote on two resolutions (see below). Eligible voting members include those who have signed the membership book and have made an identifiable pledge and a payment on that pledge for the 2012 fiscal year. You must be present at the meeting to cast a vote. As always, feedback and comments are welcome by email to [unity@unityunitarian.org](mailto:unity@unityunitarian.org). For information on your voting status, please contact Executive Director Barbara Hubbard at [barbarah@unityunitarian.org](mailto:barbarah@unityunitarian.org) or 651-228-1456 x116.  
*All are welcome!*

The following information is included in this *Special Meeting of the Congregation* packet:

- ❖ Letter from the Board of Trustees
- ❖ Meeting Agenda
- ❖ Resolution: Minnesota Marriage Amendment
- ❖ Resolution: *Unity Tomorrow* Authorization

Information that relates to this meeting will be posted online at:

<http://www.unityunitarian.org/special-meeting-of-the-congregation.html>



**Pancake Breakfast**

Saturday, April 7, before the meeting!

Pancakes, sausage, juice and coffee will be served from 8:30-9:45 a.m.

March 28, 2012

To the Members of Unity Church-Unitarian:

At its meeting on March 22, 2012, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to accept the Guaranteed Maximum Price proposed by McGough Construction, for the completion of the *Unity Tomorrow* project. When added to the anticipated costs for contingencies and owner expenses, the total comes to just under \$8 million, the amount that the congregation authorized last November for the *Unity Tomorrow* project.

The board endorsed the planning groups' recommendation that the *Unity Tomorrow* project proceed as a single, interconnected effort in order to make best use of our financial resources and to reflect the values of the congregation. This unified approach will provide the greatest impact at the least expense, including a significant enhancement to our Religious Education spaces and a thorough integration of "green" technology.

As pleased as the board is that the guaranteed costs for the project have matched the estimated costs, we are also fully aware that the amount raised to date is not sufficient to cover those costs. In anticipation of the gap between proposed expenditures and required income, the board asked the *Unity Tomorrow* teams for a variety of financing proposals that would cover that gap. Even though every effort is being made to continue raising funds to reduce the gap, some financing will still be needed. Based on the proposals presented to the board, we feel confident in recommending to you a resolution that authorizes a financing plan that will limit long-term debt repayments to no more than 10% of the annual operating budget of the church. This figure is in the middle range of ongoing debt levels reported by churches of our size.

Your approval is required to proceed with the *Unity Tomorrow* project. To obtain your approval, the board has called a meeting of the congregation for **Saturday, April 7, 2012, at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary**. The text of the resolution to be submitted for your vote is included with this letter.

At the same time, the board also seeks your support for a resolution to authorize Unity Church-Unitarian to speak publicly in opposition to the Minnesota Marriage Amendment, which will appear on the statewide ballot on November 6, 2012. We believe that this resolution is the logical extension of our mission, values, and responsibilities as a Welcoming Congregation. The text of the Marriage Amendment resolution is also included with this letter.

On behalf of the board, we urge you to review both attached resolutions prior to the April 7 meeting. **If you have questions about the *Unity Tomorrow* project or the financing for the project, we hope you will attend either of the board-hosted forums following the April 1 morning services, in the Center Room at 10:15 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.**

The Board of Trustees of Unity Church-Unitarian  
Bob Peskin, chair  
Craig Allen  
Rob Fulton  
Beverly Heydinger  
Terry Linskey  
Sarah Pradt  
Lia Rivamonte  
Tim Thoreen  
Marg Walker

**Unity Church-Unitarian**  
**Special Meeting of the Congregation**  
**Saturday, April 7, 2012 • 10:00 a.m.**

**Meeting Agenda**

Convening of Meeting

Invocation

Election of Parliamentarian

Congregational Business

- Resolution: Minnesota Marriage Amendment
- Resolution: *Unity Tomorrow* Authorization

Closing

## Resolution of the Board of Trustees

# Concerning the Minnesota Marriage Amendment

### Whereas

The mission of Unity Church-Unitarian is to engage people in a free and inclusive religious community that encourages lives of integrity, service and joy; and

### Whereas

The moral owners of Unity Church-Unitarian are those who yearn for the Beloved Community and see Unity Church as an instrument for its realization; and

### Whereas

The Beloved Community is community at the highest level of reality and possibility, where love and justice prevail; and

### Whereas

Our Ends Statements proclaim that Unity Church-Unitarian is a radically hospitable, spiritually vital and supportive community where people of all ages feel welcome and connected across identities including race, class, gender, sexual orientation, ability, politics and education; and that

Unity Church-Unitarian is a visible leader and partner, making a positive impact in our neighborhood and in the world through advocating in the public arena for liberal religious values in response to prejudice, injustice and oppression; and working with congregations and institutions around shared values; and

### Whereas

On February 22, 2006, consistent with our mission, values, and ends, we passed the following resolution that committed to the full inclusion of LGBTQ people and their families in our congregational life: "We the members of Unity Church-Unitarian approve the recommendation of the Board that we become a Welcoming Congregation. As a Welcoming Congregation, we share and embrace the concerns of bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender persons and allies at every level of congregational life;"

Now, therefore, the Board recommends adoption of the following resolution:

**As an institution that believes in the inherent worth and dignity of all people and is committed to making a positive impact in the world by standing against prejudice, injustice and oppression, Unity Church-Unitarian publicly proclaims our opposition to the 2012 Minnesota Marriage Amendment.**

**Resolution of the Board of Trustees**  
**Concerning *Unity Tomorrow* Authorization**

WHEREAS

At the November 19, 2011, Annual Meeting of the Congregation, the members assembled voted overwhelmingly to authorize the *Unity Tomorrow* campaign with the goal of attaining \$8 million in pledges, and constructing the three key elements of Phase One of the project, including essential infrastructure and code upgrades, improvements to the bathrooms and kitchen, and improvements to accessibility, way-finding, and welcoming, with a unified central entrance, gallery and courtyard to the extent funds are available; and made provisions regarding certain debts and encumbrances related to Phase One of the project; and

WHEREAS

Continued planning and design development has made clear the interdependence of all aspects of the project, in order to reflect the congregation's desire for "green" and sustainably constructed improvements, to create welcoming and more functional classroom space for the religious education program, and to honor the congregation's desire for the most cost-effective design; and

WHEREAS

The total projected cost for the improvements exceeds the current amount raised to date,

NOW THEREFORE THE BOARD RECOMMENDS that the Congregation authorize:

That the Phase One *Unity Tomorrow* renovations proceed as a single project at a total cost not to exceed \$8 million, excluding financing costs, and

THAT soil disturbed in the courtyard where cremains were placed be carefully removed and replaced in a designated memorial garden, and

THAT the debt in the project be limited to the cost of short-term construction financing, and long-term financing such that scheduled repayments shall not exceed more than 10% of the annual operating budget of the church, and authorize such encumbrances as are necessary to secure such financing and such liens as are customary industry practice.