

Congregational Meeting Minutes December 18, 2022

Panelists present on Zoom Webinar: Maureen McAndrews, David Yamashita, Dave Sjoquist, DeAnn Peterson, Carol Ann Arvan, June Lester, George Macon, Arthur Murphy, Beth Martinz, Doug Abell, Ines Hoster, Sean Golan, Rich Hammett, Janel Dennard, John Guyton, Rev. Taryn Strauss, Bryce Thomason, Laura Beth Brown, Don Milton, Lynette Williams, Dan Moore, Gary Youngblood

The Congregational meeting was called to order by Maureen McAndrews. After Maureen reviewed the agenda, David Yamashita lit a chalice and shared opening words by Frances Koziar. Then Ines Hoster and Doug Abell, members of the Healthy Relations Committee and Beth Martinez, Board Liaison to Healthy Relations Committee read aloud the UUCA Covenant for Healthy of Healthy Relations. The following procedural appointments were made: June Lester and George Macon served as co-parliamentarians, Beth Martinez took minutes as secretary, Jason Delaney served as timekeeper, and Arthur Murphy served as the teller.

After the procedural appointments, meeting protocols for a zoom congregational meeting were reviewed and Quorum was determined. The congregation currently has 582 voting members. 10%, or 58 members, are needed for the budget vote. A total of 101 were present. A quorum was reached.

Approval of May 15, 2022 Minutes

Beth Martinez moved that we approve the minutes of the May 15, 2022 congregational meeting. No second is needed. There was no discussion. A question was asked where the minutes and agenda are posted (on the website).

Results: 87 voting members approved, 3 abstained, motion passed.

Stewardship Report

Rich Hammett thanked the committee, the board, and especially Barbara Begner, Janel Dennard and David Hanna as he felt there was a steep learning curve, and both he and Sean were grateful for the support. Sean Golan reviewed the status of the Stewardship Campaign. The goal was to reach \$1.1 million dollars, and as of Dec. 18, 2022, the pledge total was \$846,868.28. This is the largest dollar amount raised in several years and represents \$95,232.82 more, or a 12.67% increase over last year. This amount is from 312 pledge units, with 28 new pledging units. There are 44 pledging units that did not renew for the 2023 year and 22 unpaid pledges from 2022 that totals \$23,412.00.

Financial Report

Financial Trustee, Dave Sjoquist, shared an update on the financial state of the congregation. Dave presented an overview of the dates pertinent to the congregation's new home:

2017 Cliff Valley Way building sold

2018 moved to Treehouse and bought 2650 North Druid Hills

2020 Global Pandemic and we go virtual

2021 We break ground on the renovation of 2650

2022 Sept. 18th Grand Opening/Home Blessing

During the last five years, the low points have been inadequate space and Covid, the high point has been the generosity of the congregation members. The finance committee meets once a month to analyze the financial records. The members are: Dave Sjoquist, Financial Trustee, David Yamashita, Board member, Jim Wold, congregant, Colin Murphy, congregant, Bryce Thomason, Director of Operations and Finance, Travis Vaughn, Office Administrator, Gary Youngblood, Bookkeeper. The 2022 adopted budget was \$1,069,391.00 which included \$824,969.00 in revenues and a \$244,424.00 transfer from Project Phoenix. Since expenditures are less than budgeted for as of November, this transfer from Project Phoenix can be carried over into the 2023 budget. The exact amount cannot be determined until 2023, once all the year end financial reports are out, but as of November, the amount was \$24,959.00. The 2023 proposed budget is \$1,103,126.00. During the stewardship campaign, the congregants pledged \$846,00. The remainder of the budget will come from fundraising, rental income and the carryover of the Project Phoenix transfer from last year. Items that have been cut from this year's budget are a planned associate minister position, UUA dues, no cost-of-living adjustments and non personnel cuts of \$50,000.00. Dave summarized the Financial report by reiterating the generosity of the congregation, and that the ministry and staff are doing great work, the finances are in good shape and closely monitored by staff, the board and the finance committee. We need to grow and increase our presence because UUCA is ready to soar.

Dave Sjoquist made a motion to amend the budget as published. He moved that we amend the 2023 budget to increase the pledge income line by \$21,000 to \$846,00 and reduce the Fundraising income line by \$21,000 to \$56,406, and that we add the following at the end of the motion, "with the understanding that any of the transfer from Project Phoenix in the 2022 proposed budget that is unused may be used to finance the 2023 proposed expenditures. David Yamashita seconded. The vote to amend passed with 80 aye votes and 1 nay vote. Next, Dave made a motion to pass the amended budget. David Yamashita seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of 90 aye votes and 2 nay votes.

Project Phoenix Report - DeAnn Peterson and Carol Ann Arvan

DeAnn Peterson and Carol Ann Arvan updated the congregation on the progress of Project Phoenix. The current total cost including 13 change orders is \$7,217,975. UUCA has a credit line of \$1,999,999 and to date has borrowed \$873,292. The total expected left to pay is \$235,829. Contingency funds are being withheld until everything is fixed.

ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT - John Guyton, Endowment Fund President

John Guyton president of the Endowment Fund, provided an update including the members of the Endowment Fund Board. The members are:

John Guyton, President
Judy Shaklee, Vice President
Mary Crawley, Secretary

Mark Honeycutt, Treasurer
DeAnn Peterson
Kay Golan

Mary Anne Gaunt
Cindy Hoffner

Sally Meyer
David Sjoquist-UUCA Board liaison

The Endowment Fund is a tax exempt vehicle for donors to provide long-term support and stability to UUCA. Assets are used exclusively for religious, charitable and educational purposes in support of UUCA. Some recent grants include: in 2019 donated over \$36,000 to rebuild and restore the Steinway grand piano, in 2020, \$200,000 was donated to the Capital Campaign, in 2022 a \$650,000 loan was provided to UUCA to help finance construction renovation at UUCA's new home at 2650. There are several ways for congregants to support the Endowment Fund: donate to the Birthday Club, donating a dollar for each birth year or become part of the Legacy Society by making a charitable donation to the Endowment fund in your will/estate planning document. More information can be found on the Endowment Fund web page at uuca.org/endowment-fund or email at endowmentfund@uuca.org.

ANNUAL VISION OF MINISTRY REPORT- 2021-2022

Rev. Taryn Strauss reminded the congregation of UUCA's mission statement which is to "Transform Lives through Courageous Actions and Soulful Connection". Three goals Taryn will continue to work on are:

1. Establish a radical welcome culture shift

52 congregants have completed the radical welcome training. This training is for Sunday morning guides and the congregation as a whole to improve our presence as a welcoming congregation. Taryn thanked Ellen Beattie, John Guyton, Leta Woo, Karen Martin, Liebs Honeycutt along with Jon Johnson and Jen Bain for helping to shape the Sunday morning Radical Welcome. New AV software can help to attract and engage new audiences in a new way. Operational software improvements such as the move to espace calendars also help the visitor's experience. Communication tools such as the Weekly Update, social media and Realm have enabled visitors and members to stay informed. Features of the new campus are welcoming also, such as the ADA measures and the all-gender bathrooms.

2. Grow our programming and membership

The new visitor programming is underway and Taryn thanked Barbara Begner, Aiden McMahon and Ellen Beattie for helping to shape it. New staff members, Morgan and Lynette, are logging visitor cards to help get the visitors connected. The first New Member Sunday in our new campus is scheduled for January 22, with nine people already registered. The Religious Education teams launched Soulful Start this year, with adult RE offered at the same time as children and youth RE. This includes the Village, a support group for families, as well as other adult RE classes and programming. Small group ministry has been spearheaded by Cheryl Delaney and Korinna Hirsch, where attendance has grown. The skill and flexibility of the AV team has allowed for outside groups to use the space and learn more about UUCA. Several congregant groups are restarting, expanding or beginning at the new campus, such as Interweave and the Climate Action Team. We have about 102 volunteers running programs, and the average pledge increased in the 2023 Stewardship Campaign by 23%.

3. Integrate arts programming with healing, inspiring and innovative worship

We launched the Pulgrum Arts Gallery and the Ruth Gogel Artist in Residence this year. With the Arts Blueprint, we have a plan for the arts programming to operate alongside our worship themes to deepen our spiritual exploration. Don Milton returned from Sabbatical. One of his highlights was taking a class in management training and leadership development. Taryn thanked LeRoy Kennedy and the Sabbatical committee who helped during Don's sabbatical.

President's Report

Maureen McAndrews shared the highlights of the board work this year. The board established an 8th principal committee to educate the congregation, provided training through the Healthy Relations Committee who led a seminar/book study on Congregational Conflict Transformation, supported the Stewardship Campaign with calls and in person discussions, continues to support the weekly Radical Welcome culture and Sunday morning guides, and monitored financial status on a monthly basis. Maureen explained two projects for the coming year. First is to call Rev. Taryn Strauss as our minister. A committee will be formed in 2023 to work on this process, and a bylaw change may be needed. Next, the stewardship committee will be revamped and expanded. UUCA needs to find new sources and new goals to meet our needs for a second minister and achieve our mission and end goals. Maureen thanked the board members for their work, the staff of UUCA who have worked so hard this Fall while opening the new campus, Rev. Taryn Strauss, and all the members of this congregation for their many hours of service and financial contributions.

As the meeting closed, David Yamashita, President Elect, served as our process observer. He noted that all communication was respectful and the UUCA Covenant of Healthy Relations held. There was a shared responsibility for our ARAOMC resolution. Rev. Taryn Strauss discussed the Radical Welcome training and the accessibility of the building. Maureen discussed the 8th Principal committee's charge to educate the congregation. The high point was the Minister's Report and the Project Phoenix Report. The low point was the first 15 minutes of reviewing the procedures and minutes, even though it is needed. The most meaningful moments were the passing of the budget and that the content was relevant and uplifting. David shared closing words and the meeting was adjourned.