

Congregational Meeting

May 22, 2022

Minutes as approved October 23, 2022

via Zoom and in-person

Welcome—Denis Edgren, Board of Trustees interim President, welcomed members. The Board of Trustees Secretary confirmed we had a quorum. By acclamation, we approved the minutes from the October 2021 congregational meeting.

President's Report—Denis Edgren highlighted many of the achievements of the past year, including that we have returned to gathering in person as well as on Zoom; our sound finances; the completion of the patio cover and fencing; adopting the 8th Principle; establishing a task force to respond to homelessness; and increasing board transparency through monthly updates. He recognized Tonie Darling's passing, and thanked the staff, ministers, and many volunteers for their service.

Our 5-year Strategic plan was due to end in 2023, which would necessitate beginning a new planning process this year. Given that the pandemic caused delays over the past two years, he asked for a motion to extend the UUSS Strategic Plan by two years through 2025. It was moved, seconded, and passed via acclamation.

Stewardship Update—Kathleen Meade reported that we have reached 85% of our goal, with 313 pledges, and 32% of pledgers increasing their pledge, and 8% new pledges. Pledges are still being gratefully received to meet the goal 100%. She thanked the Stewardship Committee.

Treasurers Report—Eric Ross provided background and explanation on the 2022-23 budget in Victoria Owens' absence. Income and expenses are very close to the current year, with the exception of salary increases. Rental use is back up; paperwork has been filed to convert the PPP loan to a gift; and we expect to pay off our mortgage early. A motion was made and seconded to approve the budget, and passed via acclamation.

Ministers Report—Rev. Lucy Bunch and Rev. Dr. Roger Jones. Our ministers reflected on many of the accomplishments and changes of the past year. Although we are a healthier congregation, also a different one, with many losses due to deaths and relocations. At the same time, 79 people have filled out newcomer cards; Soul Matters groups involved 85 people and will start again in September with a new theme. Two youth groups have resumed and a new social justice coordinating council is being formed. Our Earth Justice and Refugee Teams are in need of new leadership. We are building momentum toward more all-age community programs. The recent online auction was a success, as was Theater One's performance of "Roe." The ministers thanked staff, the board, Program Council, and volunteers.

Committee on Ministry—Judy Bell read a resolution, affirmed by the Board and Program Council, to recognize Rev. Dr. Roger Jones and Rev. Lucy Bunch as ministers of equal standing. Discussion opportunities will be held on June 12 (Fahs Room) and June 27 (Zoom) with a celebration in September.

Program Council Report—Susan Davis reported that the Council has updated its charge, helped develop program cards for distribution in the church lobby and slides displayed prior to services, added volunteer opportunities to the UUSS website, and will hold an Activities Fair to promote UUSS groups after church on September 11. The Program Council retreat will be held on July 30. A multi-phase leadership development program is also in progress. She thanked the Program Council members for their time and dedication, and noted one opening still exists to serve on the Council.

Endowment Trust Report—Fred Deneke reported on the health and value of the trust, which has begun shifting investments to the UU Common Endowment Fund.

Election of candidates. The slate of candidates was offered to the membership for a vote, which was passed by acclamation, along with four absentee ballots provided to the secretary.

Adjourn