

Unitarian Universality Society of Sacramento

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, October 18, 2020 12:30 pm

Minutes

1—Welcome and Call to order: Board President, Sally White

The meeting was called to order at 12:36 p.m. and she thanked everyone for their flexibility as we adapt to our second online meeting.

2—Establish quorum: Anara Guard, Board of Trustees Secretary A quorum (minimum presence needed to conduct business) of 97 members was achieved, with 114 voting members present.

3--Review agenda and meeting procedures: Sally White

4—Approve May 2020 Congregational Meeting minutes

With no objections or questions, the minutes were approved by “default”.

5—President’s report: Sally White. Board of Trustees members were introduced and thanked for their contributions. Consistent with the board objectives of focus, function, future and fun, she reported on the following results and accomplishments:

- Anara Guard joined as secretary and Tonie Darling joined to fill vacancy from Roger Olson’s passing.
- The patio cover is up!
- We have a strategic plan that covers through 2024; the board has created two new task forces—the Communications TF is reviewing our current communication resources and strategies, recommend streamlining and improving those resources. Thank you to Dirk Tuell, Judy Lane, Patti Innes, Michael Miller, Monica Miller, Dorothy Roberts. Huge thanks to Reverends Roger and Lucy and to Dirk and many others for keeping our communications going.
- In June at the UUA online General Assembly, the report from the Commission on Institutional Change introduced the results of their three years of work about systemic racial issues via the book Widening the Circle of Concern. The Board, Program Council, 8th Principle team and the Racial Justice team are working through the book to identify how UUSS can join forces with other congregations throughout the UUA to bring about the changes needed to address the systemic racial issues that keep racial divisions alive. Congregants are encouraged to join the Racial Justice team meetings and to visit the Racial Justice page on UUSS site for readings, meetings, videos, and other activities to educate yourselves about systemic racial issues.
- She thanked the board for their flexibility, open minds, time, willingness to speak truth while staying focused. In particular, for forming the Physical Gathering Task Force to address Covid-19 challenges. The Task Force (including Hally Cahssai, Mary Howard, Stephenie Moczydlowski, Lorri Reynard, Alecia Sanchez, Karen Sparrow, as well as Krystal and staff) spent much time reviewing and considering county guidelines and other practices. It has recommended in-person services via zoom until May 2021 or until a vaccine is available to all. An updated recommendation has been prepared and will be considered by the board this week; board

decision will be announced as soon as made. We will regularly revisit our recommendation as the county situations changes. It is our goal to keep all congregants safe and healthy.

6—Treasurer's report: Victoria Owens. Victoria shared the proposed budget for FY 2021 (July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021) and explained that the total budgeted revenue for the 2020-2021 fiscal year is 6% less than the actual revenue for last year, fiscal year 2019-2020. The Board, Finance Committee and ministers worked hard to create a realistic and achievable budget, given the changed circumstances. The budget includes: Pledge contributions are the lifeblood of the church and comprise the bulk of our revenue. Plate offerings have remained steady, while building use and program revenue are down, and fundraising income is projected to be less than in past years. An online auction will be held later in the year to help raise funds. UUSS received a PPP loan of \$72,000, and met its requirements by keeping everyone employed during the loan period. Since then, there have been some cutbacks in hours. The Board gave a 2% cost-of-living adjustment to employees retroactive to July 1st. Finance Committee recommended and the Board agreed that in January 2021, although the minimal required payments on our mortgage loan will reduce, we will continue to pay at the current higher rate to reduce the principal so that when a balloon payment is due in January 2026, it will be close to zero.

Several congregants asked questions that were answered before Virginia Johnson moved to approve the budget as presented, seconded by Terrie Ray. The vote was unanimous and much praise was given to Victoria for her presentation and the Finance Committee for their hard work.

7— Ministers' report: Rev. Roger and Lucy thanked all the attendees and the work of the lay leaders, worship associates, musicians, Zoom wizards, RE volunteers, pastoral volunteers, and more. The UUSS vision statement declares that "we come together." Despite the pandemic, UUSS has maintained community. We all miss meeting in person but are gratified that we continue to gather in large numbers on Sundays as well as Tuesday evening vespers. They appreciated those who have made contributions to the ministerial discretionary fund which helps those who are going through financial hardships, and to all who pledged and contributed to our shared offering each month, as well as to those who send messages of support. Rev. Lucy impressed by all those involved with community partners, Env. Justice Committee, and others. Many congregants have been involved in voter outreach through Reclaim Our Vote with the UUThe Vote campaign. New this year is the theme-based ministry Soul Matters—creating 12 groups with 120 people participating. Newcomers continue to arrive via Zoom and an orientation be offered soon for them. They reminded us that the office is open Sunday-Friday and you can visit the campus, walk in the garden and labyrinth. Please appreciate the hard work of the Construction Team for all their projects. As mentioned, the patio cover is installed and waiting for final county approval. Please send thanks to Glory Wicklund who shepherded that project through endless delays. Finally, thanks and appreciation to all the staff for their resilience and dedication.

8—Program Council report: Margaret Wilcox, Co-Chair. Margaret Wilcox, chair of the Program Council, stated that the Council's primary goal is to support UUSS programs. She offered thanks to the Council members and provided a brief update on three initiatives the Council is focusing on:

- identify goals and objectives in our strategic plan that most closely relate to programs. Which programs relate most closely to those goals and how might they do more?
- update the design of Get Connected section of the website.

- collaborate with the Racial Justice team to bring conversations about the proposed UUA 8th Principle to the broader congregation. They plan to contact all programs to facilitate these conversations.

9—Community Partner voting process: Anara Guard, Board Secretary. Anara explained the online voting process for choosing 12 of the 15 nominees for Community Partners. UUSS members worked thoughtfully to make the nominations. Because there were several new nominees, voters were encouraged to learn more about those organizations that weren't familiar. The online ballot linked to each organization's website and included a link to a PDF document of all the nomination forms.

10—UUSS Unsung Hero Award: Program Council—Margaret Wilcox and Tina Chiginsky Lawrence. Each year UUSS has a tradition of honoring a member who gives an extraordinary amount to the congregation, often quietly in the background. With gratitude and love, we give award this year to Mary and Rich Howard!

Both Rich and Mary have been members of UUSS since January 1, 1989. Their daughter Rachel grew up in Religious Education here. Over the years they both have served in similar roles at UUSS, sometimes together. Both have served on search committees for new ministers and music staff. Both have served as president of the Board of Trustees.

Both have taught in Religious Education and been mentors in Coming of Age. They have taught Our Whole Lives, the UUA's curriculum on sexuality and values for youth. They hosted a Ministry Circle for many years, and Rich coordinated and supported facilitators of other Ministry Circles.

Mary has been a Worship Associate and served as an Endowment Trustee. Rich has preached and coordinated services for Memorial Day and Dia de los Muertos. Rich is on the Environmental Justice Committee. They both have been involved in social action by canvassing neighborhoods, attending demonstrations, and hosting meals for Family Promise. Currently Mary is chair of the Committee on Ministry, and Rich served on one years ago. Mary is the co-chair of our spring service auction. She sings in the choir. Years ago she was on staff as our choir director.

They've served on Stewardship Committees many times, as hosts, pledge canvassers, and co-chairs--and sometimes together as co-chairs. They served on the Capital Campaign in 2012 to raise donations for our expansion and renovation project. Then Rich co-chaired the Project Delivery Team and Mary led the Project Funding Team during our 13 months of being offsite-so we could move back home.

In spite of being so busy as volunteers, they remember to take time for meditation, spiritual retreats, camping, birding trips and other travels. Their personal generosity to UUSS and organizations in the larger community is gratifying and inspiring. By all the ways they serve our church and the faith and talent with which they do it, they have been mentors to new leaders and younger members. So many of our children, youth and adult members have been enriched by their friendship over the years.

We extend this honor to Rich and Mary Howard with our gratitude and our love.
A plethora of congratulations and kudos ensued via chat!

11. Adjourn—The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 pm.