

# **UUSS Congregational Meeting - via Zoom and in-person**

**May 21, 2023**

## **Agenda**

11:30 Welcome— Anara Guard, Board of Trustees

Confirm we have a quorum—Anara Guard

Approve October 2022 meeting minutes

President's Report - Anara Guard

Article II - Karen Gunderson

Treasurer's Report/Vote to approve 2023 -24 Operating Budget - Victoria Owens

Ministers Report—Rev. Lucy Bunch and Rev. Dr. Roger Jones

Program Council Report - Tina Chiginsky-Lawrence

Social Justice Coordinating Council

Election of candidates

12:30 Adjourn

## Congregational Meeting

Oct. 23, 2022

### Draft Minutes

via Zoom and in-person

**Welcome**—Anara Guard, Board of Trustees President, welcomed members. No quorum was needed; about ninety people attended. By acclamation, we approved the minutes from the May 2022 congregational meeting with one spelling correction.

**President's Report**—Anara Guard introduced the board members to the congregation and thanked them for their service. She briefly described the board's goals identified at their August retreat: 1) Expand Leadership development and volunteer recruitment; 2) Coordinate staff policies and compensation; 3) review and improve communications; and 4) strengthen our social justice ministry. She invited congregants to share their thoughts on these goals with any member of the board. UUSS now has a board task force on Home-lessness Resources that works with our new Social Justice Coordinating Council. UUSS is in good shape financially, thanks to contributions and to prudent management by the Stewardship Committee, the Treasurer, and the Finance Committee. Finally, she thanked the congregation for weathering the pandemic with grace and fortitude, and the ministers for their leadership.

**Treasurers Report**—Victoria Owens gave the good news that we have paid off the balance of our mortgage, that all staff received a 4% raise and will receive additional lump-sum bonuses, and that the Board has committed to a plan to raise Lucy's salary to reflect her position as Minister of Equal Standing.

**Ministers Report**—Rev. Lucy Bunch and Rev. Dr. Roger Jones, our Ministers of Equal Standing, reflected on recent accomplishments and changes, including staff departures and new hires. The nursery has re-opened; and there are many new members and families attending. Currently, we are offering a sermon series on the future of UUism and the UUA Article II revision of Principles. The ministers thanked staff, the board, Program Council for the recent Activity Fair, pastoral visitors, and the Auction team for their work.

**Program Council Report**— Susan Davis, Chair, provided an update of Program Council activities. These included: an introduction of council members and one current vacancy was noted; updated Program Council charge; annual retreat; successful Activities Fair held in September; Volunteer Request and Opportunities process; working in conjunction with Rev. Lucy, Board of Trustees and the Nominating Committee on a multi-phase leadership development program.

Each year the Program Council recognizes one or more congregants as a UUSS Unsung Hero. These heroes are selected based on their numerous contributions, often "behind the scene" and not always visible to the larger congregation. The name or names are added to a special plaque that hangs at UUSS. This year's very deserving recipients are: Fred Deneke, Denis Edgren and Karen Sparrow.

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF SACRAMENTO**  
**DRAFT BUDGET**  
**FISCAL YEAR 2023 - 2024**

**Fiscal Year (FY) runs July 1 - June 30**

	<b>Draft FY2024 Budget</b>	<b>Approved FY2023 Budget</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Revenues</b>			
Pledge Contributions	575,000	575,000	0%
Plate Offerings	60,000	60,000	0%
Non-Pledged Contributions	10,000	10,000	0%
Building Use	55,000	50,000	10%
Fundraising Income	38,500	32,500	18%
Program Income	20,435	18,050	13%
Investment Income	2,000	2,000	0%
Transfer in for Cap Outlay	15,213		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>776,148</b>	<b>747,550</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Ministry	258,723	242,104	7%
Support Staff	165,042	156,645	5%
Benefits	102,302	100,648	2%
Total	526,068	499,397	5%
General & Admin Expenses	43,422	45,950	-6%
Building Expenses	78,740	76,200	3%
Fundraising Expenses	5,000	5,500	-9%
Program Expenses	35,690	35,920	-1%
UUA Dues	38,118	39,951	-5%
Community Contributions	30,000	30,000	0%
Capital Outlay/Reserves	16,213	12,031	35%
Loans	2,601	2,601	0%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>775,852</b>	<b>747,550</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>-</b>	

## Ballot - 2023

Position	Term	Name	Term Begins (July 1)	Term Ends (June 30)
BOT President	2 Yrs	Anara Guard	2023	2025
BOT Secretary	2 Yrs	Lisa Dahlquist	2023	2025
BOT Member at large	2 Yrs	Leanna Pierson	2023	2025
BOT Member at large	2 Yrs	Susan Davis-James	2023	2025
Nominating	2 Yrs	Christopher Jensen	2023	2025
Nominating	2 Yrs	Naomi Keller	2023	2025
Nominating	2 Yrs	Robin Visel	2023	2025
Program Council	2 Yrs	Beth TenPas	2023	2025
Program Council	2 Yrs	Rachel Nickel	2023	2025
Program Council	2 Yrs	Sean Fountain	2023	2025
Endowment Trust	3 Yrs	Randy Webb	2023	2026

### Anara Guard – Board President

Anara joined UUSS (her third UU church home) about five years ago and became board secretary shortly thereafter. Last year, she was requested to complete the remaining year of Tonie Darling's presidency term, and was honored to do so. Now, she looks forward to serving a two-year term in the same role. She enjoys engaging with the passionate and committed leaders making up the board. When not in a meeting, Anara spends her time writing and making marmalade.



### **Lisa Dahlquist – Board Secretary**

Lisa Dahlquist became a member of UUSS in 2010, finding a community that supported the values she wanted to live and wanted her children to be surrounded by. She wants to join the Board as Secretary to help with the ongoing work of living our values. She is betting her experience as a project manager, used to working with folks with different viewpoints and priorities and helping distill those into results, will come in handy.



### **Leanna Pierson – Board Member At Large**

Leanna is relatively new to UUSS. She and her wife, Patricia, started attending UUSS in the summer of 2018. She retired from California State service in December 2017 having served as an analyst with the Department of Health Care Services for over 25 years. She still works part time as a retired annuitant.

She currently volunteers with the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program helping people access Medicare benefits. Leanna also enjoys spending time in her garage shop making things, singing with the Sacramento Women's Chorus, and reading. Leanna currently sings in the

UUSS choir, Co-chairs the UUSS' Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans, and makes sandwiches for the Sandwich Brigade. She has held leadership positions at other churches in the past, including board positions at two small United Methodist churches. Leanna looks forward to becoming involved in UUSS leadership.



### **Susan Davis James – Board of Trustees, Member at Large**

Susan Davis-James joined the church in 2019 in search of a supportive spiritual community. She currently serves as a member-at-large on the Board of Trustees, as well as on the Finance Committee.

Susan retired after over 30 years working for the State of California in the development of information technology (IT) policy and oversight of IT projects. She is currently a volunteer with Loaves and Fishes and the Sacramento Public Library. Susan enjoys spending time with her two daughters and four young grandchildren, hiking, and reading.



Susan relishes the warm sense of community the congregation provides.

### **Christopher Jensen – Nominating Committee**

Christopher Jensen has been a member of UUSS since 2000. During that time, he has served as a Nursery helper, a Religious Education Teacher, a Worship Associate, Usher, Family Ministry Team member, Auction Event helper, All Ages Camp marshmallow roaster and organizer as well as a member of the Nominating Committee. He enjoys church activities including singing in the choir, after service coffee and soup, and ongoing events such as the Racial Justice Orientation Sessions.

His son Erik is a proud graduate of UUSS Religious Education and the Coming of Age programs, and his wonderful wife Kathleen Mead is also an active member.

For Christopher, UUSS has been a great place to find solidarity and make friends with like minded folks who “come together to deepen our lives and be a force for healing in the world.”



He looks forward to serving with other members of the Nominating Committee and supporting the Nominating process as well as the promotion of our members into leadership roles.

## **Naomi Keller – Nominating Committee**

I have been at UUSS since about 1975. There were times when I was busy with other pursuits but always a UU in my heart. When I moved into my current neighborhood close to the UU campus and became a steady attendee about the time Roger was appointed as interim minister. I was on the board in the 1990's, and headed the annual crab feed for a number of years. Lately, I have been on the Brew Crew, the camp committee and volunteered for various kitchen duties. I am a senior with grown children, and college age grands.



## **Robin Visel - Nominating Committee**

Robin has been a member of UUSS for 5 years. She lives in Europe (as a dual US-Greek citizen) about 5 months a year, but is committed to attending and participating in UUSS when she is in Sacramento and remotely as able. She has been a Mercy Pedaler for 5 years and is a member of the Brew Crew. She has been in 3 Soul Matters groups, attends Theology on Tap, and participated in the women's retreat. She and her husband Yorgos pledge to UUSS. She would like to help with any leadership position that does most of its work between October and April, when she is in Sacramento.

Robin is a retired English literature professor, who specialized in contemporary postcolonial (that is, international literature written in English) and women's writing. She was an active member of the Greenville SC UU Fellowship for about 15 years, when she taught at Furman University. She is committed to UU-ism and wants to deepen her involvement with UUSS in any way that she can be useful.



## **Beth TenPas Program Council**

Beth has been a member of UUSS for about 3 years. She arrived in Sacramento in September 2019 after being active on and off with the Unitarian Universalist Church of Santa Monica and for one year with Jefferson Unitarian Church in Golden, Colorado. Being new to this area, she jumped right into UUSS knowing she would find a way to get involved and meet like-minded people.

Beth retired from the UCLA Health System in 2018, having spent over 30 years working in Finance and Information Systems. Making the move out of Los Angeles gave her the opportunity and challenge to start fresh after her divorce, her retirement, and the graduation of her daughter Emma from UC Santa Cruz.



UUSS immediately welcomed Beth into a Spiritual Deepening Circle, which became her lifeline once the Covid shut down hit. She then took on facilitating a Soul Matters group on Zoom and another one in person the following year. Finally, this led to her joining the Program Council in 2021.

You may recognize Beth from the groups she has chosen to join. First and foremost is the UUSS Choir, as singing with others has been a life-long joy. Because of an Auction win, Beth learned to play Mahjong, and you can see her at the UUSS tables when something else isn't interfering. She loves books, so the UUSS Readers and the Beacon Bookstore are natural fits.

Last year Beth helped the Program Council pull off the first Activity Fair in 3 years, along with supporting the Autumn Auction success as part of the Auctria software team. She hopes to continue to serve UUSS and its beloved community as her talents and time allow.



### **Rachel Nickel – Program Council**

Rachel has been a UUSS member since 2022, joining after a year of attending and falling in love with this community. She enjoys working weekly with the Grounds Crew, and volunteering for various activities here at UUSS. As a member of the Program Council, she looks forward to supporting, celebrating, and continuing to sustain and grow the amazing opportunities for this congregation to live out their values.



Rachel grew up in San Francisco, Pacifica, and Mountain View, experiencing life in the city, as well as Shingle Springs, Cameron Park, and Somerset, enjoying life in the country on a farm. She moved to LA to obtain her BA from CSU, Northridge, in Communication Studies. After graduating, she explored the wonders of Europe for 3 months to thereafter land in Sacramento in 1995. She completed her Master's Degree at Sacramento State in Communication Studies, with emphasis on Media Criticism and Pedagogy. She taught Argumentation and Organizational Communication as a Teaching Associate at Sac State, while working as a paralegal. She then found her professional passion as an animal advocate, working as the Director of Consumer Affairs for the Animal Protection Institute as well as the Administrator for the Leaping Bunny logo program, assisting cosmetic companies in taking steps to end animal testing. Currently, she spends her days raising her incredible son. She still gets her animal fix by volunteering at Happy Tails Pet Sanctuary.

She shares a home in East Sacramento with 4 rescued cats, 2 rescued dogs, 1 husband found in the wild, and her 1 amazing son.

### **Sean Fountain – Program Council**

Sean Fountain is from the Sacramento area and has been attending UUSS since 2019 with his spouse, Crystal and their three children. He is a writer, artist, and gardener and professionally, he is a mechanical engineer with an interest in environmentally conscious technologies. He is also currently studying at Lincoln Law School, pursuing patent and intellectual property law.



At UUSS he has been involved in the UUrth Song Garden, Theology on Tap, Climate Justice, Hiking Boots, Parkway Stewards, Religious Education and he has worked with Adult Enrichment to present a 2-part conversation on electric vehicles and renewable energy. He plans to attend General Assembly this year as a delegate for UUSS.

### **Randy Webb – Endowment Trust**

Interested in serving on the endowment committee to help ensure the long-term financial stability of UUSS and its spiritual presence in the greater Sacramento community for many years to come.

Member of several UU congregations on both the east and west coasts for more than 25 years. Have attended UUSS since Fall of 2021 and became a member earlier this year. Married to Jennifer for almost 30 years and raised 3 children (ages 25, 23, and 20).



A career finance professional who retired as Treasurer of Applied Materials in Santa Clara, CA in 2021 following a 25 year career. Have a passion for the financial well-being of both for-profit and non-profit organizations. Served on the Finance Committee of UU San Mateo in the past and currently a member of the Loan Committee for Opening Doors in Sacramento and the endowment committee for the San Carlos Education Foundation in the Bay Area.