

Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento

Congregational Meeting, BY ZOOM

May 17, 2020 Minutes

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

The meeting was called to order at 12:20 p.m.

2. Establish quorum

149 people signed in by Zoom. A quorum was established.

3. Approve minutes of October 2019 congregational meeting: Sally White

Max Soucia moved to accept the draft minutes as written. Janet Lopes seconded the motion. The motion passed.

4. President's report: Sally White

Sally reviewed the agenda and explained Zoom mechanics. Board of Trustees members were introduced and thanked for their contributions. Sally thanked the ministers, IT consultant and staff for their work during this challenging time. Thanks were also extended to UUSS members and friends who have made financial pledges. Sally summarized work accomplished on the UUSS campus, including new window shades in the nursery and lighting in the main hall. Progress on the patio is progressing, and patio furniture has arrived. The UUSS Safety Task Force has been made a permanent committee (Congregational Safety Committee). The Unitarian Universalist General Assembly will be held as a virtual meeting, June 24-28. UUSS may designate eight delegates. (Those interested, please contact Sally at president@UUSS.org.) UUSS applied and received a U.S. Payroll Protection Plan loan (\$72,000). UUA President Susan Frederick-Gray sent guidance to UU congregations, recommending that physical meetings not be held until May 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Being responsible for the fiscal health of this organization, we have decided to wait until COVID-19 has run its course and continue to reduce our debt before instituting a new campaign.

5. Stewardship Update: Jim Eastman

Jim Eastman and Rich Howard are co-chairs of the UUSS Stewardship Committee. David Harlow is the Board liaison. There are nine volunteers on this committee. The committee has six subcommittees and has been aided by last year's thorough procedures manual. The campaign goal is \$630,000, and \$530,000 (84% of the goal) has been pledged at present. The last day of the campaign has been extended to May 31, 2020.

6. Program Council: Margaret Wilcox

Margaret Wilcox, chair of the Program Council, stated that the Council's primary goal is to support UUSS programs. UUSS programs, in turn, have a key role in supporting the UUSS Strategic Plan. Examples of UUSS programs are the American River Parkway Stewards, the Environmental Justice Committee, Theology on Tap, and Spiritual Deepening Circles. These and other groups have continued to operate (with Zoom) during the COVID-19 pandemic. Margaret thanked the group leaders and the UUSS ministers and staff for their support during this difficult time.

7. Congregational Safety Committee: Roger Olson

The Congregational Safety Committee, now a permanent committee of UUSS, started several years ago as the UUSS Safety Task Force. Accomplishments have been many: installation of lighting around the Religious Education building, improved security of exterior door locks, provision of CPR and first aid training for UUSS members and staff, and so on. Roger thanked the many people who served on the Safety Task Force. The new committee will continue to develop guidance for greeters and ushers and will develop an evacuation plan, and much more.

8. Treasurer's report: Victoria Owens

Victoria stated that the FY 2019-2020 budget will continue to serve as the UUSS spending plan due to the extended UUSS stewardship campaign. After May 31, a FY 2020-2021 draft budget will be prepared. The draft budget will be discussed and voted on at October's congregational meeting. UUSS took out a U.S. Payroll Protection Plan loan with Five Star Bank, in the amount of \$72,000. (The amount reflects two months of payroll.) The loan will be forgiven when used for payroll. The current UUSS financial report indicates that UUSS is on sound financial footing.

9. Ministers' reports

- Rev. Lucy Bunch

The UUSS vision statement declares that “we come together.” Despite the pandemic, UUSS has maintained community. Rev. Lucy applauded the resilience and dedication of all UUSS staff and thanked Dirk Tuell, the UUSS IT consultant, who has assisted UUSS with on-line postings and virtual meetings. Keith Atwater will continue as Music Director for another year. UUSS continues its good work through “share the plate contributions,” ministry circles and the many groups which now meet remotely.

- Rev. Dr. Roger Jones

Rev. Roger announced that we are evaluating fundraising events for the coming year and looking into the possibility of a virtual auction. The UUSS auction in early March brought in \$30,000. From this, \$17,000 was spent on automatic doors for the restrooms off the Welcome Hall and for an energy efficient refrigerator. Rev. Roger announced that Sangye Hawke has completed her semester (UU minister education). He thanked all those who have volunteered for the UUSS phone ministry, the UUSS Grasshoppers (loving providers of lawncare on our campus), Mercy Pedalers), and others. Religious Education and Family Ministry continue with Zoom as does Adult Enrichment. Recognition and thanks were extended to Keith Atwater, Irina Tchantceva and all UUSS staff.

10. Election of Officers

The slate of candidates was provided using Zoom’s polling function. The slate was accepted by 99% of those who voted. Congratulations to all!

Board of Trustees

Vice President: Denis Edgren

Treasurer: Victoria Owens

Member-at-large: Hally Cahssai, David Harlow, Eric Ross

Program Council

Jon Peterson

Nominating Committee

Chair: John Abbott

Members: Annette Emery, Alecia Sanchez

Endowment Trust

Celia Buckley, Diane Doddridge

11. Adjourn meeting

Jeff Voeller moved that the meeting be adjourned; Barbara Stanton seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p. m.