

Congregational Meeting Minutes - Oct. 23, 2016

Quorum established and Meeting convened at 12:03pm with 119 signatures on the sign-in sheets.

The Minutes of the Congregational Meeting on May, 5, 2016 were unanimously approved.

Motion: Ernest Perez Second: Sally White

President Linda Clear announced that the “Couples Resource Collective” was to be removed from the Community Partners ballot at the request of the nominator.

President’s Report - President Clear welcomed all to the meeting and expressed gratitude to a number of members for recent work to benefit the Congregation:

- Monument Sign - Jeff Voeller, Carrie Cornwell, Jim Eastman
- Landscaping - Annie Kempees
- Sculpture - Patty Taylor
- Banners - Meg Burnett & Dick Tarbell

She also thanked Revs. Roger & Lucy for all their hard work (which led to loud applause from the congregants) and RE Coordinator Miranda Massa and the RE volunteers for their energy, hard work, and dedication. The Board of Trustees was introduced.

Treasurer’s Report - Gordon Gerwig had a printed report prepared to which members could refer(see attachment). The Finance Committee was introduced. The printed report covers the end of the last fiscal year (’15-’16) and the first quarter of the current fiscal year.

The contract with Event Architects explained by President Clear. Gordon then discussed our mortgage with Five Star Bank and the Endowment loan. It was also explained that due to renting out the building, our property tax bill will go from about \$4000/year to about \$17,000/year. We expect the income from Event Architects will more than cover the increase. We started the year with a small surplus and are currently doing well. Gordon explained it is not the job of the Treasurer to be overly optimistic(laughter). Our current monthly expenses run about \$53,000/month, and we pay about \$43,000/year toward the Five Star mortgage. There is a feeling that within 10 years the Endowment loan may be forgiven. Rev. Lucy is receiving extra pay to cover extra duties during Roger’s sabbatical. We currently have adequate funding in our Capital Outlay and Reserve Funds.

There were questions about wording in the report, how to budget for pledges when the pledge drive is not completed, if our operating expenses include our debt payment, and how much it costs to rent the facility. All questions were answered.

Endowment Report - Chuck Todd delivered the report. The Endowment Fund currently has about \$385,000 which is held in a Schwab Fund and the loan to the Congregation. The original loan amount was \$325,000. This year they’ve given out about \$2400 in grants and contributed \$3000 to the Ministerial Intern’s pay.

There was a question about how the loan is being repaid. Currently, it is an interest only payment from UUSS. This amount may change in the future, or possibly be forgiven, or UUSS may just pay it off over time.

Minister Reports -

Rev. Roger Jones - The upcoming sabbatical is his biggest item right now. We have a new program training pastoral visitors. It is being run by Rev. Martha Hodges, former Minister at UU Community Church. New volunteers are welcome, also information on those who may need services. The FundRaising Strategy Team (FRST) is a new committee to coordinate fundraising events and do strategic planning for things future capital campaigns. Some upcoming events are the Spaghetti Dinner (Meg Burnett), the Stewardship pledge drive (Ginny Johnson), and the Spring Auction (Kathy Bernard). This is our second year with Keith Atwater as Choir Director (general applause). Roger recognized RE Coordinator Miranda Massa and our Nursery staff, Krystal Gollaher and Yer Chang for their good work. Also new Junior High Youth Group (JHYG) leaders, Anthony Johnson and Kate Anderson. We are currently offering Our Whole Lives (OWL) sexuality education classes for grades 4-6. The Jr. Hi OWL class had to be cancelled this year due to low enrollment. Our office staff are working well, Stanton Vedell (Facilities Coordinator), Elaine Cooper (Receptionist), and Michele Ebler (Bookkeeper) bring their varied gifts to their jobs, and we are lucky to have them with us. The Board and Program Council are both functioning well with strong leadership. A comment from the congregation praised and thanked Accompanist Ina Jun for her skill at the piano. Roger also pointed out that over just the last few years we have raised Rev. Lucy Bunch from a part-time to full-time to, now with Roger's sabbatical, an over-full-time position. Good one, Roger.

Rev. Lucy Bunch - There is a Saturday retreat coming up for the Board and FRST. Also more newcomers orientations. We are starting up many new programs. Lucy is glad to step up to more responsibilities in Roger's absence. The Exploring UU classes are ongoing. You don't need to be a new member to attend! We currently have a crop of 24 new members (applause). The Spiritual Deepening Circles now have about 80 people and are kicking off their new year well. A bigger congregation like ours needs smaller groups to help maintain connections between people. Stanton Vedell, Elaine Cooper, & Michele Ebler are to be thanked for their good work. Intern Minister D. Scott Cooper is a good colleague and fun to work with. It's ok for Roger to go on sabbatical now (laughter). Lucy especially asks us that if we any issues with her performance during Roger's absence, positive or negative, please discuss it with her directly.

Rev. Roger added that our Legacy Giving program has started up thanks to the efforts of Karen Gunderson and Cathy George. Eleven people have signed a legacy giving form. Roger also said that if we increase our pledges by 15% at this year's Stewardship Drive he will come back from his sabbatical. BUT, if we increase our pledges by 50% we can get a better replacement (general laughter). President Clear pointed out that it's important for all of us to support Rev. Lucy in Roger's absence.

Social Justice -

Income Inequality - Board Member Sally White explained that the Board chose the theme, Confronting Income Inequality as a focus for the Congregation, following up on charges to congregations at the General Assembly. We will be addressing poverty, homelessness, and immigration. Our first principle calls us to participate with other local groups to address these issues. The entire congregation is welcome to participate in this process. We plan to increase our and others' awareness of these issues, educate ourselves about new issues within this subject, and increase outreach to our local community. There will be a monthly sermon on the subject, a monthly movie night and discussion, a book discussion (starting later today - "Aftershock" by Robert Reich). She called for input on books and movies to share. We need to acknowledge and support our current commitments to Family Promise, St. John's Program for Real Change, and Loaves and Fishes. The Social Justice team is looking to bring to us workshops regarding homelessness in Sacramento, tours of Loaves and Fishes, and get involved in the legislative process. Please come to Sally with your ideas and suggestions. Being in this congregation has changed Sally's life. We can change the lives of others, too. Check the UUSS website for updates and more information.

Black Lives Matter - Board Member Dennis Pottenger spoke of our vote for the banner last August. The group charged with developing the banner included Dennis Pottenger, Sarah Turner, Joseph Turner, Karen Hirsch, Glory Wicklund, D. Scott Cooper, and Rev. Roger. There are links for more information on the UUSS website. The banner is our public witness to the issues faced by African-Americans. We currently offer meeting space to Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ), a group that educates white allies in how they can support the movement. We have purchased 2 banners to be displayed back to back to be visible from both directions on Sierra Blvd. We need to raise additional funds to completely pay for both banners. The new banner was unveiled to general applause, "Black lives matter here. Standing on the side of love. uuss.org". A member requested that we document any vandalism and report it to the Sheriff's office and to the UUSS community.

Unsung Hero Award - Deirdre Downes, Chair of the Program Council, announced the members being recognized as Unsung Heroes. The Program Council was asked by the Board to come with three nominees. They chose Glory Wiklund & Keith White (as a team), Tim Anderson, and Judy Lane. due to the length of time since this was last awarded and the exceptional contributions of all the nominees, the Board decided to recognize them all. Their names were added to the Unsung Heroes plaque which will be mounted in the Welcome Hall.

Community Partner Election - The following Community Partners were chosen using the ranked choice voting process:

1. Family Promise
2. Loaves & Fishes
3. Mustard Seed School
4. Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services

5. St. John's Program for Real Change
6. Wind Youth Services
7. Children's Receiving Home
8. Sacramento Senior Safe House
9. International Rescue Committee of Northern CA
10. Black Lives Matter Sacramento
11. UU Justice Ministry of CA
12. Opening Doors

Meeting adjourned 1:20pm. Motion: John McMillan Second: Colleen Emryss

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet Lopes, Board Secretary

UUSS Congregational Meeting Treasurer's Report

Sunday, October 23, 2016

UUSS Finance Committee: Gordon Gerwig, Denis Edgren, Rev. Lucy Bunch, Janet Lopes, John Abbott

1 Recap of 2015/2016 year

UUSS Budget Year July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016					
A Income	\$	614,154	C Expenses	\$	622,129
B Budgeted Income		634,650	D Budgeted expenses		636,656
Difference (A-B)	\$	(20,496)	Difference (C-D)	\$	(14,527)

FY 15/16 Budget Highlights:

- * Budget year ended with a deficit of \$5,969.
- * Staff given an average 2% raise beginning February 2016 at a cost of \$3,800 through June 2016.
- * Pledge Contributions of \$443,346 was less than budget of \$474,600 by \$31,254, or 6.6%.
- * Property Use Revenue of \$24,767 fell short of budgeted amount of \$36,000.
- * Expenses were overall in line with budget, however \$20,058 less than budgeted for compensation and benefits for staff, \$8,241 higher in General & Administrative expenses, and utilities were \$8,242 higher than budgeted.

2 2016/2017 Budget

UUSS Budget Year July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017				
A Budgeted Income	\$	646,000		
B Budgeted Expenses		644,051		
Difference (A - B)	\$	1,949	(roughly in balance)	

FY 16/17 Budget Highlights:

- * This year's budget contains a small surplus (\$1,949, or 0.3% of the budget).
- * Pledge income through Sep. is \$7,707 more than budgeted & plate income is \$2110 more than budgeted. Plate & Pledge revenue combined is 7.6% more than budgeted. The Finance Committee is confident that the budget for pledge receipts for the year is realistic.
- * Cash flow (ability to pay bills) issue is not anticipated, but could become one if pledge, building use or fund-raising revenues fall short of budget or unexpected expenses occur.
- * Sacramento County increased our property taxes by \$13,700/year due to building rental.
- * Rev. Lucy to receive extra compensation during Rev. Roger's sabbatical, paid from operating income.
- * \$20,000 of UUSS capital made available to balance budget; none used by September 30, 2016.
- * **Budget allocates \$43,000 for principal and interest payments on building mortgage (\$560,293). This will be an annual obligation until the mortgage is retired.**

3 July 1 - September 30, 2016 Income and Expenses

A Income	\$	176,537	C Expenses	\$	170,762
B Budgeted Income		165,050	D Budgeted expenses		166,467
Difference (A-B)	\$	11,487	Difference (C-D)	\$	4,295

Result: \$11,487 more income & \$4,295 more expenses = \$7,192 more in operating funds.

4 September 30, 2016 Balance Sheet:

Reserve (emergency) fund - \$66,780; Capital Outlay Fund - \$104,255; Heritage Fund - \$29,055
Temporarily restricted by the BOT: \$51,937, including \$29,831 in Betty Ch'maj fund