

**Unitarian Universality Society of Sacramento**  
**Congregational Meeting (in person and on zoom)**

**Sunday, October 24, 2021 11:45 am**

**Minutes**

11:47 am Call to order and welcome: Tonie Darling, Board of Trustees President

Invocation and Chalice Lighting

Tonie Darling reviewed the agenda and meeting procedures.

In her **President' Report**, Tonie introduced the members of the Board of Trustees, including youth liaison, Linnea Stanton, and thanked them along with the committees and Program Council. UUSS is healthy both financially and emotionally. In particular, she celebrated the completion of the patio cover, the fence relocation project, and the successful spring auction. Huge thanks to our ministers who are unfailingly gracious and have formed a remarkable partnership, sharing with one another all that needs to be done. Moving ahead, she described our emphasis on racial justice and how we are looking into forming a social justice coordinating body.

**Treasurer's report:** Victoria Owens reported on the fiscal year that ended 6/30/21 and gave an update on where we are after the first quarter. Thanks to a PPP loan (now forgiven) and successful spring auction and stewardship campaign, we are slightly in the black. Charts will be posted on the website and included with these minutes. She responded to questions from the congregation as well.

**Ministers' report:** Rev. Dr. Roger Jones and Rev. Lucy Bunch. Lucy described the spiritual state of the congregation, which likely consists of fatigue, discouragement, good will, hope, willingness, and an aim to do things differently. In other words, we're doing okay as a spiritual community. Roger described how Zoom services have improved, thanks to the tech team weathering many changes. Now, we are learning to hold "hybrid" services. He thanked our musicians and worship associates, and noted the achievements of having held Vespers services for 15 months and of Miranda keeping RE going. We've learned a lot with fundraising, through the successful service auction and stewardship drive.

This year, we will launch a social justice coordinating committee, which fits into our strategic plan, to help us have more presence and respond more rapidly.

**Program Council report:** Tina Chiginsky-Lawrence named the members of the Council, who are elected by the Congregation, and offered these remarks:

Consistent with the UUSS Strategic Plan and our mission, the Program Council and program groups help the congregation to "come together to deepen our lives and be a force for healing in the world."

Likewise, the PC's functions align closely with the UUSS Strategic Plan. We work with groups to keep a focus on racial justice, inclusivity and intergenerational opportunities so that they can be interwoven throughout the groups' activities wherever possible.

PC provides oversight and support to the various UUSS program groups. You can find a listing of groups on the website under the "Get Connect" tab. We assist with formation of new groups; publicity for

existing groups; annual budget request submissions, and annually oversee updates of program and activity groups' contact information and subsequent revision of the church website and program description cards.

PC is also responsible for special celebrations and recognition of congregants who contribute considerable time and efforts to UUSS throughout the year. PC takes leadership in activities that support church morale. We assist with UUSS events, like the new patio dedication held on July 31, 2021. Currently, we are working to gather information from groups regarding their current status and functions in order to promote them on the UUSS website, Sunday slideshows and printed materials distributed to new members and in the church lobby.

We thank all the activity groups and program committees that found ways to stay connected and active during the past 18 months and all of those that are now starting up again. Their activity demonstrates the resilience of the UUSS congregation. We also want to celebrate that a number of new activity groups are in formation, which demonstrates the ongoing vitality of UUSS. We plan to work with groups on an opportunity fair in the spring as an additional way to promote and publicize group activities and opportunities to the wider congregation. We are also developing an online volunteer request form and a listing of current volunteer opportunities so members can get involved. Both documents will be linked in the weekly ministers' message and on the website under the "Get Connected" tab.

**Community Partners voting process:** Anara Guard, Board Secretary, expressed gratitude to the members who nominated 19 organizations. Ballots will be emailed and mailed October 25, with the link of where to vote. Voting will be open for one week to have plenty of time to read the nominations.

**UUSS Unsung Hero Award:** Jon Peterson

Program Council this year recognizes **BOBBIE KEILL** as the Unsung UUSS Hero of the Year for her many activities including:

- Chaired Committee for the Ordination Service and reception for Reverend Sangye Hawke
- Heading the baking team for this year's Fall Gratitude Celebration fundraiser on Nov 13
- Served as co-chair, and full Chair, of the Stewardship Annual Pledging Campaign, also created a Stewardship Manual to help other chairs through the process.
- Co-lead for an annual Communion Ceremony
- Served as head of Soup Sunday lunches following Sunday Services
- Worked with Community Partners in helping River City Food Bank by coordinating diaper drives, including over 10,000 this year and assisting the International Refugee Committee with staff training in the local office.

Since 2017 Bobbie has been an organizer, steward, fund-raiser, soup-maker, baker, coach, and supporter of her fellow volunteers. She, along with husband Gary, have become a source of warmth and kindness to a growing number of UUSS friends.

The congregation enthusiastically applauded this award.

12:03—Closing