

**UUCSR Congregational Meeting Minutes**  
**2/10/13**

Upon validation of a quorum the meeting was convened in the sanctuary at 9:00 a.m. by Laura Jean Hageman, Board of Trustees president. Opening words were led by minister, Chris Bell, as the chalice was lighted. Laura Jean acknowledged Ann Chambers and Pam Tennant for acting as parliamentarian and recording secretary, respectively.

**1. Minutes for the October 7, 2012, Congregational Meeting were approved as written.**

**2. Treasurer's Report: (Art Rosenblum, co-treasurer)**

- "The news is good and better." Status as of the end of December, 2012, shows:  
Pledge revenue is up by 12%, total revenue is up by 15%, and expenses are down by 3%.
- Regarding member loans (offered at 3% interest) to pay down our mortgage at Luther Burbank S&L, of the \$172,000 remaining, all but \$45,000-50,000 has been pledged. It is expected that the remainder will be pledged to pay off the loan by the end of March, 2013.

**3. Draft Budget for FY 2013-2014: (Linda Stabler)**

- Linda explained the process of creating the budget, the people involved, and the time line for preparation, including draft, pledge drive, preliminary budget, presentation to congregation, and final budget after employee benefits costs are known. She explained in brief the changes from the current budget, the bottom line of which is that in order to do what is proposed, the pledge revenue must increase by 7.9%.
- Linda Proulx asked that our music director's compensation and benefits be advanced from a "wish list" item to a line item on our budget given Nancy's value to our congregation.

**4. Bylaws Revisions report: (Ellen Skagerberg)**

- Bylaws Committee members were announced. This rewriting brings together into a cohesive, intelligible whole the piecemeal changes that have occurred over time. Ellen mentioned and further explained the 11 items described in the "Salient Points" sheet prepared for this meeting. A motion was made by Craig Work and seconded by Sybil Day to approve these Bylaws changes.
- In the discussion that followed, Kirsten Olney asked to table Article VI, Sec. 3, that describes the Board president duties. She made that into a motion, seconded by Art Rosenblum. In the following discussion, it was pointed out that tabling that section would mean that the current "CEO/manager" wording would stay in force until officially replaced, and the issue would have to be addressed at the next congregational meeting in June. Statements both for and against immediate adoption of all revisions were made. As a result of discussion, Kirsten and Art agreed to amend their motion, withdrawing the request to table, and instead proposing to retain the current wording with the addition of the Bylaws Task Force's suggested revision. This amendment was approved with fewer than 5 nay votes. A call for the main question was made and seconded; the motion to accept the bylaws revisions as amended was approved with 2 nay votes.
- A final motion was made by Cassandra Lista and seconded by Natalie Brundred to authorize the Bylaws Task Force to correct formatting, spelling, missing words, etc., of a non-material nature when the final version is prepared. This motion passed.

**5. Nominations for Board of Trustees, Pacific Central District (PCD) meeting and General Assembly (GA) delegates: (Ben Ford, chair of nominating committee)**

Nominations for:

- Board of Trustees re-election to second 2-year term:
  - Joe Como, Alan Proulx, Peter Wilson, and Jeanie Bates
- Board of Trustees election to first 2-year term:

- Linda Stabler and Marge Wright
- PCD delegates:
  - Gretchen Vap, Ellen Skagerberg, Carolyn McLeese, Roger DeBeers, and Andy Levine
- GA delegates (for June 19-23 in Louisville, KY):
  - Gretchen Vap

**All were unanimously approved.**

**A motion by Ben to authorize the Board of Trustees to appoint additional delegates and alternates to PCD and GA meetings was approved unanimously.**

## **6. Report on Board of Trustees goals:**

### **Community within and without (Alan Proulx and Jeanie Bates)**

- The North Bay Organizing Project is replacing the NBSC and promises to be more vibrant.
- They are working on a volunteer task force that will provide the services a volunteer coordinator would provide if we could afford that paid position.

### **BOT Infrastructure Team Goals Update (John Farison)**

- The BOT continues to do long-term building systems planning. The building obsolescence line item has now accrued over \$10,000 to date for meeting building system needs.
- The emergency fund policy is undergoing language revision to be more flexible as a financial tool for meeting budgetary emergencies. A revised policy document is being prepared by the BOT and Financial Stewardship Committee for presentation and approval at the June congregational meeting.
- Replacement of heat pumps 1 and 2 (HP1 and HP2) is top priority for FY 2012-2013. One unit is non-functional and the other is 30-years old and very inefficient. These units serve our rental unit. Replacing them would cost ~\$28,000, and our current obsolescence fund has about \$10,000. The BOT is working with the Financial Stewardship Committee to figure out the best way to fund the replacement of HP1 & HP2.
- Regarding facility additions and upgrades, our currently used spaces are being carefully evaluated and are found to be heavily used most hours of the day and evening, so the task currently is to balance priorities. John suggested a relatively inexpensive and quick way to increase our usable space would be to make the breezeway weather tight for year-round use.
- The first UUCSR Teams Workshop was held on January 19<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was facilitated by Rev. Chris and attended by about 30 people. The focus of the meeting was coordination between teams and improving our methods of communication of team activities. Our plan is to have annual team meetings to ensure our team governance is working effectively.

### **Spiritual Life (Rev. Chris Bell)**

- The goal is to offer as many opportunities for different spiritual practices as possible. Rev Chris, worship associates, and musical director have been increasingly using seasonal themes.
- Effort is under way to expand children's RE programs and offer adult programs. For the latter, a survey to assess people's interests has just been composed and will be disseminated immediately.
- There will be increased ministerial involvement with parents of our RE children.

## **7. Member Appreciation: (Cathie Wiese)**

Recognized were:

- Kathy Norman for her efforts for many years with Women Together, the visitor's table, membership, and office volunteering;
- Sibyl Day for working on human resources, the budget, recording secretary for the BOT, etc.;

- Linda Stabler for her work on the budget task force and human resources;
- Leonard and Lynn Riepenhoff for the Saturday work parties, kitchen committee, circle dinners, greeters.

#### **8. State of the Congregation Report: (minister, Chris Bell)**

- He expressed thanks to all who volunteer, making all of this work. He sees the congregation as being in a very good state and noted that reconfiguration and change are good in a dynamic body.
- He acknowledged that pastoral care has been a challenge this year with so many becoming ill and dying. The reinvigoration of the Caring Committee has aided all concerned.
- Early service childcare has provided a big enhancement for young families to become involved.
- We recognize the need to be realistic with resources, both people and money.
- Financial goals that he will give special attention to by personally calling on members are increasing the times we share the basket and increasing our commitment to Nancy Hayashibara, music director.
- At the heart of all else is our worship.
- Our membership has grown from 327 to 337, plus 11 emeriti members and 17 pledging friends. His goal is 450-500 within 3 years.
- He wishes to offer more leadership development.

#### **9. Comments from the floor:**

The pledge party on April 6<sup>th</sup> was announced by Linda Proulx.

Freda Powers expressed appreciation to the Bylaws revision committee for their work and especially for the wording acknowledging the Congregation as the ultimate authority for our congregation.

**The next congregational meeting will be June 9, 2013 (subject to change).**

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Submitted by Pamela Tennant, acting secretary