

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SANTA ROSA**

**February 12, 2017**

Call to order at 11:02 a.m. by President Bill Haigwood

Appointment of Recording Secretary and Parliamentarian: Sharon Smith and Alan Proulx  
Opening words by Millie Phillips/chalice lit by Bill Haigwood

Minutes approved from the previous Congregational meeting.

**Board of Trustees Members in Attendance:** Bill Haigwood (President), Natalie Brundred (Vice President), Tom Bond, John Jaffray, Sam Miller, Michael Randolph, Gretchen Vap, Marge Wright, Linda Stabler

**Minister's Report:** Rev. Chris Bell – A lot of good things are happening; for example, the Engagement Fair, the MLK "A Day On Not A Day Off"; our partnership with Community Baptist Church; the unity service after the march and the group of clergy who are continuing to meet. A question is how do we get more people to participate in the unity of our community? We have had many visitors lately. We are hearing that you are all friendly and welcoming, so thank you for that. Twenty four people attended the last Getting to Know UU class. We are very likely to grow. Rev. Chris intends to bring even more attention to all that is going on now in the church.

**Treasurer's Report:** Linda Balabanian: So far so good. **Pledge revenue** is over budget. 53% of budget pledges were received through December. **Glaser Center** net income is on budget; **fundraising revenue** is under budget. **Total expenses** are under budget – after upstairs improvements, we still are in positive territory. We approved using \$32K from prior year's cash (net income) for preliminary upstairs improvements, and after paying for them our net income is well over budget. We have paid off \$156K in Member Notes since we paid off the bank mortgage in February 2013. The \$312K balance is to be paid off in about 7 years. 20 members hold Member Notes. Financially, another good year so far! \* Continued growth, \*Meaningful programs, \*Your generosity. If you haven't, please sign up for **automatic payment** from your checking account or credit card. It's quick and easy. There will be no pledge drive this year. Pledges made were sustaining – they will renew each year until changed. Pledge cards are available on Sunday, in the office and online. Or just change your autopay to a new amount. **Budget process** continues as usual. Pledge increases will support our mission and growth.

**Review of Preliminary Budget 2017-18:** Terry Graham: Chart reflects a six month effort. The Financial Committee starts in November. This is a status report – the proposed budget goes to the Board in January and this is the summary. This budget is pretty much the same budget we had this year. We have had calm, steady growth over the last couple of years. That has allowed us to do a number of things. This budget does not reflect any of those things but you will see them in three months. **What's Different? Revenue** – Pledge revenue is \$462K – 6% greater than FY16/17 budget; 3% greater than "booked" pledges. **Donations** decreased revenue - \$18K - \$20K donation in hand last year. Reduced

**long-term rental** income - \$24K; pre-school income is in FY16/17 budget. **What's Different? Expenses** – decreased employee expenses - \$12K (Medicare insurance advantage); no intern minister; staff salary increases in budget. Repairs & maintenance - \$14K, no building 545 changes. PCD dues: we paid ½ of the dues but will end up paying them all. Supplies, utilities, notes +\$5K. **June considerations** – how will this be different in June when we vote on it? If the pre-school goes and we have that revenue, then we will propose a part-time Assistant Minister.

**“It Won’t Happen Here” Declaration from the Advocates for Social Justice –VOTING ITEM.** The Advocates approved this and took it to the Board who approved it. Now it’s before the Congregation for your vote. Declaration was read. **MOTION TO ACCEPT THIS DECLARATION WAS MADE: Seconded. All in favor with one opposition. Motion passed.**

**UUA Pledge of Conscience:** Millie Phillips –**VOTING ITEM.** Declaration of Conscience was read. We are in dangerous times in history. We need to step up our actions regarding social justice. **MOTION MADE TO CHANGE THIS ITEM FROM “UUA DECLARATION OF CONSCIENCE” TO “UUA AND UUSCR DECLARATION OF CONSCIENCE”.** Motion to approve this change was moved and seconded. All in favor. **MOTION TO SUPPORT THE UUA AND UUSCR DECLARATION OF CONSCIENCE WAS MADE AND SECONDED. APPROVED BY ALL.**

**Stewardship Team Presentation:** Erin Howseman – Erin stated that during her time as a Worship Associate she discovered why she was so pleased to be a UU. Now being chair of the Stewardship team, she sees that even more. One of the things she loves about the congregation is that we have so many opportunities to grow. It’s common to hear from others how much this place means to them. (Video presented) We receive in proportion to what we give via labor and finances. Please try to raise your pledge – look toward 5-10% of your income.

**Update on Preschool negotiations:** Barrie Noe – Cypress pre-school advised us they were unable to continue toward rental but referred us to Community Pre-School. We met with the principals on December 27 and February 9. They are very interested in working with us to sign a lease for a mid-August start. We are very impressed with them. They pay their teachers more than any other teachers in the county and provide insurance. They share UU values. Their architect and contractors have visited the building to see about modifying the restroom in the back of the building.

**Renaming Room 545 “The John Durr Room” – VOTING ITEM.** Bill Haigwood indicated he had heard from quite a few people about an interest in naming this room after a very important person. Since this appeared on the agenda, it has been learned there might be some other thoughts. How do we proceed with naming this room? Much discussion from the audience ensued regarding the process and an objection to what appears to be a lack of democracy in this decision. Differences in opinion were expressed about the name. After much discussion, decision made to take this issue back to the BOT and work out a process for the naming so that all the congregants can participate. **MOTION MADE TO TABLE THIS MOTION FOR NOW. SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR.**

**Creating a Just Society – Yes We Can: Linda Harlow presented as chair of the Social Advocates group.** Linda indicated this is a very busy group and shared some of the activities they are involved in: Adrienne Swenson award scholarship, film series based on a congregational survey (this year it’s been the corruption of democracy), working with legal groups to improve the lives of people all over the world, UUSCR service committee holiday cards and Guest at Your Table (director of UUSC is scheduled for a Hot

Topic), Hot Topics and share the basket recipients, volunteering at the Living Room for children and exploring a relationship with the Women's Recovery Services, Gay Pride Parade, MLK Day On, a climate change action workshop, Engagement Fair, refugee resettlement, NBOP, member of Racial Justice Allies, Black Lives Matter committee, Human Services Action Group and Police Oversight Task Force. Linda indicated it's a very busy committee and asked others with an interest to please attend a meeting the second Monday of the month.

**Nominations to the Board of Trustees: VOTING ITEM.** Nominations: Karen Simmons, Gretchen Paradis, Melinda Napier, Sarah Jones. **MOTION MADE TO ELECT THESE INDIVIDUALS TO THE BOT. Seconded. All in favor.**

**Nominations to the Endowment Committee: VOTING ITEM.** Nominations: Reid Stinnett, Michael Randolph, Mary Lil Lee. **MOTION MADE TO ELECT THESE INDIVIDUALS TO THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE. Seconded. All in favor.**

**Closing Words: Rev. Chris** – We can do more together than we can possibly do alone. UUA President's election will be happening this year. May 6 will be the District Annual Assembly at the Walnut Creek church and the candidates will be there. Also consider attending the General Assembly in New Orleans.

**Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.**

**The next Congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, June 11, 2017 at 11:30 a.m.**