

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION, SANTA ROSA

June 11, 2017

- Meeting called to order at 11:05 by President Bill Haigwood.
Members present = 97 (quorum = 70).
- Board members present: Bill Haigwood-President, Natalie Brundred-VP, Gretchen Vap-Corp Secretary, John Jaffray, Marge Wright, Linda Stabler, Michael Randolph, Sam Miller
- Board members absent: Tom Bond
- Change in printed agenda: Rev Chris' short report will precede longer Treasurer's report.
- Millie Phillips lit the chalice. Rev Chris read a poem by Katherine Harer: How to Hope, and convened the meeting as our 'own act of faith' in running our church democratically and wisely.
- Minutes from previous Congregational meeting (February 12, 2017) approved, with one abstention.

Minister's Report: Rev. Chris Bell: We're moving into summer, and one Sunday service. Expect creativity and invite a friend.

General Assembly is this month in New Orleans. Rev. Chris will be away June 19-26.

His tenure on the UU Appointments Committee ends this month. With the end of his service on the District Board, he is looking forward to more focus on UUCSR.

There will be no intern minister this coming year. No assistant minister likely either, due to the delay in the pre-school startup.

The Board will have a Retreat in August; he is expecting the 10-year vision developed under Alan Proulx to begin to blossom there.

We're developing a Lay Chaplain program with the Caring Connections Committee. About 10 people in first group. Cultivating skills around empathic listening and support. A lay ordination service will happen in the fall. Expanding pastoral care is a top priority.

Rev. Chris is refinancing (not selling) his house at Yulupa Co-Housing, and expects to be there for years to come.

He's delighted and honored to serve at what may be the best congregation in the country.

He's available for meetings about the church or personal/spiritual life matters.

Treasurer's Report: Linda Balabanian: It's been a pretty good year so far. Numbers reported were as of the end of April, i.e. 10 months into this fiscal year.

REVENUE: Pledges: we're over budget a little. Donations: we're over budget. Sunday collection: we're over a little. Fundraising: we're under budget (need to take up with the committee for next year.) Glaser Center: net income is slightly under budget, but May is expected to be very high.

EXPENSES: We're under budget, even with the outlay for upstairs improvements (\$32k) and the lack of the planned income from the pre-school (\$23k). We expect to end the year on or slightly under budgeted expenses.

CASH FLOW: good.

DEBT: About \$40k in member notes will be paid off during this fiscal year. Notes totaling \$297k are currently held by 19 UUCSR members. We expect to fully pay these off over the next 7 years. It's been a pretty stable process.

Endowment Committee: Michael Randolph: **VOTING ITEM.** A distribution of up to 5% of the value of the endowment is allowed if the previous year's rate of return (ROR) exceeded 5%. Last year's ROR was about 7.5%, so an allocation of up to \$10k can be made for the coming year. Proposal is to use it for remodeling the women's restroom countertops, faucets and soap dispensers. **MOTION was Called to approve not-to-exceed amount of \$10k for remodeling of the women's restroom. Seconded. Discussion:** Might we use this money in better ways? Hygienic improvements are the focus and are urgently needed for our Saturday program and for rentals. We should invest in good faucets. The men's restroom also needs remodeling. Can we use overage for the men's room? M. Randolph: No. If ROR is good this year, we can remodel men's room next year. **Question called. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2017-2018 UUCSR Budget: Treasurer Linda Balabanian: **VOTING ITEM.** Clarification: endowment distribution has to be used the year it's distributed. We will only use what's needed for the approved purpose. Today's budget discussion refers to handout sheet that compares FY2016/17 to FY2017/18.

REVENUE: We're asking for/planning on an increase of \$18.3k in pledges next fiscal year. We've added a category (an experiment) to reflect that new pledges, and changes in pledges, happen on an ongoing basis now that we don't do a once-a-year pledge drive.

EXPENSE: We've added a discretionary amount for members pursuing ministry — hope to increase it in the future. Q: Pianist salary: \$200/week. Q: 69% increase in hourly wage category?: An administrative correction, in which a staff member was moved from salary to hourly to correct the last budget. Q: Was there really an \$11k reduction in benefits? Yes.

MOTION made to approve the 20170-2018 Budget as submitted. Seconded. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Pre-School Update: Glaser Center Committee - Linda Balabanian: We're looking to have RE wing used by community pre-school, and had hoped to start this August (the school can only start in August.) Have to remodel restroom for children. We will combine existing restroom plus RE closet. Local contractors are very busy. Construction will take place over this coming year. Will be paid for mostly by pre-school. We'll "chip in." August 2018 is now the expected start date for Community Pre-School.

Acknowledgement: Rev. Chris: After 4 years as our treasurer, Linda is stepping down. She's made tremendous contributions to UUCSR. She focuses on making this a place people want to come to. She works with the assumption of growth. She's creative. Among her great legacies: no annual pledge drive — and it's working! Many thanks for her beautiful mission. Michael Randolph will be taking her place in the new fiscal year.

UUCSR Naming Opportunities: Natalie Brundred: Earlier this year, discussion about naming Rm. 545 set in motion a process to define how we'll do naming going forward. A committee consisting of Bill Haigwood, Natalie Brundred and Richard Senghas was formed. Current plan: Richard Senghas is writing up a policy, once the committee has approved it, they will get feedback from selected members of the congregation, then send a draft to the board for review. Once that has happened, will bring to the congregation at a Congregational Meeting for final approval. The policy may be ready for review by October or February. Looking to create transparency and inclusiveness. Once a naming policy is adopted, we'll name Rm. 545. Suggestions from the congregation: a box to collect input re names; some mechanisms for input from the congregation; a contact person to whom we can funnel input to drafters of the policy.

Sanctuary for Immigrants, Status Update: Intern Minister Millie Phillips: The UUCSR Board is looking at becoming a sanctuary church and reviewing several legal, liability, accommodations, and translation considerations. Church-provided sanctuary is in an honored tradition, but is not usually based in law. Sanctuary means a lot of things — it's not just a building. It includes working for human rights in any setting, meeting actual needs of the community in need, and working effectively within existing realities. What's needed most right now: a rapid response network to witness ICE detention of immigrants, and trained people to accompany detainees at hearings. UUCSR is supporting the North Bay Organizing Project (NBOP) by hosting a Legal Observer Training at the UUCSR on Saturday, June 24th, 1-3 pm. As part of this project, NBOP is establishing a 24-hour hotline. Register here: http://nbop.nationbuilder.com/legal_observer_training. Questions, contact: sshaw@northbayop.org. Training will be by San Francisco-based Immigrant Liberation Movement, with Spanish translation.

Nominating Committee: Eric Fisher: **VOTING ITEMS.** Clarification: the Nominating Committee nominates members of the Board, the Endowment and Nominating Committees, and District and General Assembly delegates. The committee is working on increasing accessibility for input from the congregation. The Nominating Committee has 5 members, each serving 2-year terms (and who can serve a second term.) The current Nominating Committee put forward 3 people to represent the UUCSR at the UU General Assembly, June 21-25 in New Orleans: Carol Kraemer; Susan Panttaja; Natalie Brundred. Rev. Chris

informed: our congregation can designate 7 delegates, and it's possible to be an 'off-site' delegate. Registration cost per off-site delegate: \$140. Names of 4 additional people were added: Roger DeBeers, Peter Wilson, Paul Marking, Anna Ulrich. **All nominees were approved unanimously to be GA delegates.** New nominations to the Nominating Committee: Barrie Noe; Joe Como. **Both nominees were approved unanimously.** Note: The 2017-18 Nominating Committee chair will be Richard Senghas.

Advocates for Social Justice Report: Linda Harlow: It's been a fantastic year, with new members contributing new energy, and old members keeping on doing great work. Activities include: Hot Topics - currently soliciting ideas. Share-the-Basket - which is exceeding budget projections. Film Series - this year focus was on Corruption of our Democracy; they're now tabulating the congregational poll for next year's focus. Adrienne Swensen award. PRIDE celebration. Sponsoring use of UUCSR space by Indivisible. Upcoming: teach mothers in recovery at Women's Recovery Services to play with their children. Black Lives Matter. Will be hosting meetings of *Indivisible*, for progressive politics. And, support for the UU Service Committee.

Recognitions: Gretchen Vap: These members were recognized for outstanding contributions to the UUCSR: Jenny Harriman, who is stepping down as Music Committee Chair (Sally Jones will assume that role.) Mary Louise Jaffray for all the administrative work she does.

Acknowledgements: Rev. Chris Bell: Bill Haigwood was thanked for his excellent service as Board Chair over the last year.

Rev. Millie Phillips, who will be duly honored next Sunday, was acknowledged for her many great contributions to our congregation.

Upcoming Congregational Meetings:

October 1, 2017; February 11, 2018; June 10, 2018

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Thollaug, Recording Secretary.