

UUCS Annual Congregational Meeting June 5, 2022

Opening song lead by D Jacquemin, “Blue Boat Home”.

Centering by T Eklof, reading from Hosea Balu in the Hymnal starting with “If we agree in love”.

Call to Order: T Mosher will stand in for G Diddens. T Mosher called the meeting to order stating qualified voters need cards they received when signing in. Church membership is 290 and a quorum is 15% or 44. A quorum is present.

Approval of Agenda: Motion: D Steele moved to adopt the agenda as published. This was 2nded and accepted. T Mosher reviewed Parliamentary rules including a 2-minute limit on speakers and the meeting closure at 2:30 pm.

Approval of 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes: The minutes as circulated were approved with no opposition.

Approval of April 24, 2022 Special Congregational Meeting Minutes: The minutes as circulated were approved with no opposition.

Nomination of Candidates: Motion: N Avery along with S Cook and T Brattebo from the Nominating Team, moved to nominate for the Board of Trustees: Catherine Trestrail (3 year term), Lilia Riordan-Rogers (3 year term) and Candace Schmidt, who has agreed to serve a 1 year term, finishing out Craig Aldsworth's term. With no other nominees, the moderator declared they are elected. N Avery nominated Jan Wingenroth (3 year term) to serve on the Nominating Team. The moderator declared her elected.

Reports:

Minister Report: Reverend T Eklof encouraged reading his Annual Report which he will highlight here. Streaming service has “exploded” with mostly (80%) local listeners. The trend in churches post covid is 65% attendees with 35% streaming which may be the new normal. Our numbers are “pretty good”. T Eklof is concerned about the future of liberal religion. He is losing hope in turning it around but will continue trying for a few more years. In his report he expresses deep gratitude to many individuals for their work for the church.

Introduction of the Board of Trustees: T Mosher introduced the Trustees: Dr Richard Steele, President Lynn Jinishian, Vice President Candace Schmidt, Catherine Trestrail, Treasurer Betsy Rush, Secretary Darl Vanderlin, and Craig Aldworth until his recent resignation.

Board Of Trustees: L Jinishian, Board President, thanked everyone present for participating. She encouraged reading her Annual Report as she will talk here about the suggestion of “dictatorship” in a recent email that was circulated. The Board used a “trinity of concepts” to

lead their work: transparency, trust and truth. The bylaw revision process involved open weekly meetings and congregational conversations. The email raised questions about the members' understanding of the workings of a church and Policy Governance. The Ministerial Agreement remains virtually the same as the previous agreement, with updates of team names, definition of roles and elimination of any conflicts with the bylaws. L Jinishian ended with thank yous.

Treasurer's Report: B Rush reviewed the roles of the Treasurer as stated in the bylaws and presented highlights from the Finance report in the Annual Report. Finances were influenced by covid which changed the building use pattern and income and expenses. The PPP covid loans which turned into grants, were designed to bolster employment which they did. The pledges are tracking nicely so far, with 94% collection rate and unpledged income above expected. Currently at 91% expected budget income and 77% expenses. B Rush detailed the budgeting process of 4 steps: drafting, 1st budget summit, pledge campaign and then 2nd budget summit where the final budget is balanced. The PPP grant was \$42,000 which covered 8 weeks of employment costs.

Motion: S Stiritz moved to adopt the budget. This was 2nded and approved with no opposition.

Bylaw Amendment Proposals and Vote: T Mosher stated there presently were 75 voting members present of which 2/3 are needed to pass the amendment, or 50 votes.

FIRST AMENDMENT MOTION: C Schmidt from the Board of Trustees moved "Regarding Article XVI, Section 3, I move complete deletion of existing language and replacement with the following language: During a Congregational Meeting a Member may propose an amendment to the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws, only if the proposed amendment has been previously submitted to the Board, four weeks prior to the meeting date."

This was 2nded and after discussion approved unanimously.

T Mosher stated 75 voting members are present which 2/3 are needed to pass the amendment, or 50 votes.

SECOND AMENDMENT MOTION: S Tyler-Babkirk moved "I move to add a new sub-section 'e.' to Article VII, Section 14 to read as follows: Appoint a special committee to carry out evaluations every two years of the Minister(s) and the ministry of the Church. Through a variety of means the special committee will solicit input with the intent to discern strengths, areas for growth, and the Congregation's perceived ministerial needs. The special committee will determine evaluation criteria in consultation with representatives from the Shared Ministry Team, the Personnel Team, the Board and the Minister(s). This special committee shall consist of two (2) members of the Shared Ministry Team and three (3) Members."

This was 2nded and after discussion, voted down with 48 votes against and 18 votes to approve.

THIRD AMENDMENT MOTION: Jean Larson moved "I move to add the following five words to Article XV, Section 1. c. "encourage input from Congregants and" so it reads as follows: The

Team shall encourage input from Congregants and share impressions, observations, concerns and recommendations with the Board verbally at least in the spring and fall.”

This was 2nded and after discussion was approved 55 votes for and 8 against.

FOURTH AMENDMENT MOTION Linda Greene moved “Regarding Article VIII, Section 2, I move to delete “two to four” and insert “three” as regards Members of the Congregation so it reads: “The Operations Team shall consist of the following: the Senior Minister, the Operations Manager and three Members of the Congregation appointed by the Board. UUCS Staff Members serving on the Team shall cease their participation immediately upon no longer being employed.”

This was 2nded and after discussion voted down with 68 votes against and 5 in favor.

The total qualified voters dropped to 73 due to 2 people leaving.

FIFTH AMENDMENT MOTION David Eagle moved “Regarding Article VIII, Section 10, I move to delete “Senior Minister in his/her role of Chief Executive” and change the wording to the effect that Ops-Team decisions will be by the majority of the Team and the section will then read “The Operations Team shall make every effort to operate by consensus. In the event consensus can’t be reached on an issue, the Team shall accept the majority decision of the Team.”

This was 2nded and after discussion voted down with 69 against and 4 in favor.

T Mosher adjourned the meeting at 2:35 pm.

D Jacquemin lead the singing of Shalom Havayreem.

Dorothy Mehl, Recording Secretary