

UUCC Annual Meeting Minutes: May 31, 2000

UUCC Board Approved 06-23-2020

The meeting was called to order on Zoom by President Caroljean Bongo at 11:15 AM.

Rev. Hannah Villnave completed the Chalice Lighting and gave an Opening Prayer.

Quorum Count: Caroljean asked for a Quorum count. Board Secretary Phil Stump reported 45 voting members on Zoom and we had received 4 completed proxy vote forms. (Quorum necessary for 131 Members is at least 33 voting Members present.)

President Caroljean Bongo began with her opening remarks. We are in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are gathering to worship on Zoom. Hopefully this is the last time to gather this way for an annual meeting. We appreciate your patience as navigate this meeting today. We are grateful to have been able to serve you. We have a total of 5 motions to vote on.

Mike Kercher explained the procedures for voting. He asked members to please raise their hands to notify any questions as needed discussion during motions. He explained that votes will be taken orally over Zoom and we will unmute everyone. If there seems to be numerous "Nay" votes the vote may need to be completed again through the Chat box. Folks with multiple members online on the same Zoom connection should submit votes to the Chat box each time.

Approval of 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes: Caroljean brought the question of approval of 2019 Annual meeting minutes. Robert Weinland made the Motion to approve the minutes and Gene Heater 2nd the Motion. There was no discussion.

All "Ayes" on Zoom. In the Chat box, 26 individual "Ayes" were counted. Gene Heater voted "Aye" with 3 proxy votes.

Living Generously Update: Abbey Kercher spoke as Chair of the Living Generously Campaign. She thanked her members of her Team, Mike Lammers, Sharron Kelsey, Arlene Shanklin with assistance from Mike Kercher. As of May 10th, 77 pledges were received for a total of \$150,266. The Team was very sensitive about following up because of COVID-19 and the potential financial effects it had on some of the UUCC memebrs. Mike Shonsey asked how the pledge amount compared to last year. Camellia El-Antably asked Joey VanSchaik about sharing the pledging amount from last year. (Later in the meeting Joey added to the Chat box that the current pledge total is \$155,266 and the pledge total from last year was \$155,934.)

2019-20 Budget Presentation: Caroljean thanked members of the financial team; Treasurer Camellia El-Antably, Co-Treasurer Joey VanSchaik, volunteer Bookkeeper Andrea Heater, and the members of the Finance Committee: Paul Howard as Chair, Joey VanSchaik, Steve Furtney, Mike Shonsey, Marci Linde, John Sanford, and Dori Klopfer. She also thanked the Investment Committee: Emily Smith, Randy Bruns, and Steve Furtney. Paul Howard is the advisor to the

Committee on behalf of RBC Wealth Management. The church monies are well managed and carefully spent. Caroljean said Camellia will present the proposed 2020-21 Church budget.

Camellia said the church had received 3 of 4 payments of the Wake Now our Vision funds. The total of all 4 payments is \$80,000. The Church is very fortunate for these funds and she thanked all that participated in the Campaign. She said the church receives rent for building use and this past year we received generous payments from the Feminist Leaders for Reproductive Justice Project for use of the building. She said the current pledges do not provide sufficient funds to address the budget so the Church expects to use money from reserves. She said the proposed budget includes only 6 months of employment for Bookkeeper and Music Director Positions.

The Bookkeeper computer housing the Church Windows (accounting software) was very outdated so it was recently replaced. She thanked Gene Heater for all the work setting up the new computer. The revenue projections are lower and fewer households are pledging. The Church is keeping expenses flat so there will be no raises this year. We were sorry not to be able to give raises to our excellent staff. All budgets for church programs are same or less than last year; although, the Church utilities are expected to be ~~higher~~ lower due to far less activity happening inside of the building. She said we are expecting to use \$27,000 from our gifts in the budget. We are not reducing program budgets except where it was suggested by the committee or staff. If our revenues improve, we can rely less on the gifts.

Camellia moved to approve 2020-21 Church budget. Robert Weinland 2nd the Motion.

Kathleen Peterson asked about where are we are on this year's budget. She asked if there was anything different based on not having the building open.

Camellia said that we do not have anyone in the Bookkeeper or Music Director positions. She said there has been reduced dependence on gifts. Since the building is closed, we are not receiving any rent and there is a slight reduction in utilities. Joey reported that there is a good chance of not needing to use reserves in this year's budget. She explained that the Wake Now Our Vision and Reproductive Justice building rental is not in the Church operating fund.

As the Chair of Buildings and Grounds, Mike Shonsey, explained that Bob Twyford will not be able to help with the mowing and watering as he had done every summer in the past. He said the Church is looking at the sprinklers and may want to have new valves installed.

Camellia said mowing and watering help is needed and to contact Mike Shonsey or Mike Kercher about volunteering this summer.

Barbara Guilford asked about whether the church may be able to hire a person to address some of the upkeep of doing outside work at the Church.

Mike Shonsey said the Building & Grounds budget will be reduced by \$1,000 in the upcoming year. He thought Bob Twyford was able to continue his help this summer so this has been a surprise. Mike said plumbing jobs will be needed in the future.

Barbara Guilford agreed about staying within the forecasted budget, and needing to think about replacing Bob Twyford's work done at the Church. Barbara asked how the \$80,000 was invested because of concern with the stock market.

Camellia explained that the funds are invested in RBC and in conservative CD's and money market funds. Camellia mentioned the need for Building & Grounds to discuss long term labor needs.

Following the discussion, Caroljean asked for approval of the 2020-2021 Church budget.

All "Ayes" on Zoom. On the Chat box, 34 individual Ayes were counted. Gene Heater voted "Aye" in chat box with 3 proxy votes.

Mission Statement Presentation and Vote: Rev. Hannah talked about the steps to develop the new Mission Statement. She added the Mission Statement to the Chat box. She said the September and Fall cottage conversations began to develop and discuss the Mission Statement. The members with collecting more data from members. Rev. Sarah Gibb Millspaugh assisted the Church by leading a workshop. There was over 20 church members attending the workshop and we did the labor of moving from cottage conversations to a draft Mission Statement.

What is our mission in this Community? The Mission Statement provides this answer.

Rev. Hannah was grateful to all members that participated with this process.

The current mission statement has served the Congregation well for 20 years. The Mission Statement Emeritus will be framed and hung in the Church library.

Committee on Shared Ministry (COSM) member Jan Behrens presented the New Mission Statement motion to the members present.

Jan moved Article I, Section 2 of Church of the UUCB by-laws be removed and the new Article I, Section 2 of the UUCB by-laws read: The mission of this congregation is to create a community of refuge where all have equal worth and are invited into spiritual exploration as a foundation for hope, compassionate service, and action."

Gene 2nd the motion.

All "Ayes" on Zoom. On the Chat box, 32 individual Ayes were counted. Gene Heater voted "Aye" in chat box with 3 proxy votes.

Financial Policy Update: Gene Heater provided an update on policy development. The members of the Committee include John Sanford and Sharon Wisroth. The Committee is

addressing concerns about policies. The Committee found four different versions and noted many inconsistencies between the versions. The initial step was for the Committee to develop a policy to create future policies. The policies have been reformed to align with procedures established in the new policy to create new policies. He explained that five policies are going thru the process of being re-written. One policy is going thru final review by the Committee. One policy is being reviewed by the Financial Team and two financial policies are needing revisions. Gene provided his contact information in the Chat box so members can contact him directly for more details about the process.

Caroljean thanked Gene and the Committee for all the work that has been completed.

Thanks to Elected Leaders: Rhonda Woodward recognized the other members of the Leader Development Team consisting of Chuck Skinner and Ken Vernon. Rhonda spoke for LDT and thanked the elected leaders of the Church; Caroljean Bongo, Mike Kercher, Camellia El-Antably, Phil Stump, Garth Shanklin, Gene Heater, Bob Weinland, and Hailey Ellingham. She also thanked members serving on the Committee on Shared Ministry (COSM), Finance Committee, and Investment Committee.

Mike Kercher shared words about Caroljean's service as President. He recognized the great respect for her time and dedication to the organization. Her tenacity and determination as served us well. Her leadership was demonstrated with the development of our Mission statement and working through the complications of COVID-19. Mike provided a screen share on Zoom of a "Cat" painting that was being presented to Caroljean as a present from the Board.

Presentation of Candidates for Board, Committee on Shared Ministry, and Investment Committee: Rhonda Woodward presented the slate of candidates for leadership positions.

Board Candidates:

- President Mike Kercher
- Vice President Marcie Kindred
- Treasurer Camellia El-Antably
- Secretary Jackie Hutchins
- At-Large: Garth Shanklin (2-year term), Gene Heater (2-year term)

Committee on Shared Ministry Candidates:

- Carol Bowles (2-year term)
- Jan Behrens (2-year term)

Investment Committee:

- Steve Furtney (3-year term)

Rhonda moved to accept the slate of candidates. Gene 2nd the motion.

All "Ayes" on Zoom. In the Chat box, 34 individual "Ayes" were counted. Gene Heater voted "Aye" in chat box with 3 proxy votes.

Ministers Report: Rev. Hannah Villnave thanked all leaders and all staff, Mary Scherden, Sharon Kelly, Tamra Mabe, and Pris Golden, for all their work. Rev. Hannah talked about what is next and what has changed in the last 10 weeks. How do we do Faith Development, COSM, ministry to care networks, and justice ministry? How is revenue and income affected? We had a joint meeting earlier this week with church leadership. Leadership reviewed a number of references on COVID-19. Where do we go from here? What is the way forward? We need to talk through some hard things. How will we do worship and Sunday morning activities? We are thinking worship will be virtual for the foreseeable future. We do singing and loud talking and get together in one room for worship. There is a lot of different guidance out there. A May of 2021 date was shared by UUA.

The Board is committed to reviewing this question at end of the summer revisiting the decision at the end of August. Worship will likely be the last activity that returns to normal. We have a longer-term reality. We all are missing this activity very badly. We are mourning that we cannot get back together. The Church is reopening with Staff beginning office hours on June 1st.

Board will review the reopening question on a monthly basis going forward. The Board and COSM will want to see what will happen with the pandemic. We are thankful of what you all have done. We are grateful for staff and lay leaders. We are serving vulnerable populations. We are all learning new things.

Mike Kercher made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Gene 2nd the motion.
President Caroljean adjourned the Annual Business at 12:29 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Stump, Board Secretary