

UUCC Annual Meeting Minutes : May 23, 2021

UUCC Board Approved Draft via Zoom: June 22nd, 2021

The meeting was called to order via Zoom by President Mike Kercher at 11:30 am. Rev. Hannah Villnave completed the Chalice Lighting and offered the Opening Prayer.

Quorum Count: Mike asked for a Quorum Count. Board Secretary Camille Furtney reported 34 voting mentors on Zoom. (Minimum of 33 voting members present required for a Quorum.)

Mike explained the Quorum count and Zoom voting procedures.

Mike offered opening remarks, noting the year of Covid-related challenges we have just come through successfully, such as meeting in a virtual community. He expressed thanks to several people for their work this year:

Joey VanSchaik and Andrea Heater for their volunteer bookkeeping; Camellia El-Antably for her work as Treasurer; Members of the Finance Team; Rev. Hannah and those who made the virtual services possible; Marci Linde and Abbey Kercher for their fundraising efforts; Lauren Danley for her work as chair of COSM; Camille Furtney for filling in as Board Secretary.

Rev. Hannah offered opening remarks, beginning by expressing her appreciation for the flexibility of the staff, lay leaders, and volunteers who have kept the wheels of our church turning despite the challenges of this pandemic year. She is grateful for the spirit of UUCC, for work that has been done and is to come. She said this is the kind of congregation that makes this a saving tradition. We have overcome challenges and can look forward to the coming year together.

She noted some exciting opportunities in the coming year:

1. Our in-person worship service on June 20th in Lion's Park;
2. Live-streaming services to share UUism with a wider audience; and
3. Exploring different ways/times to use our building for faith development.

Mike called for a motion to approve the 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes.

Caroljean moved that the 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes be approved.

Mike Lammers seconded the motion.

All "Ayes" on Zoom; the motion passed.

Treasurer Camellia El-Antably presented the 2021/2022 Budget. She reported that year-to-date received pledges are \$133,000 (rounded). Next year's pledges, including ongoing EFTs from

those who have not sent in pledge forms, is \$146,000. While pledges may be down some, she expressed appreciation for the consistency of the pledges coming in. We have not had to use any reserves so far, the main reason being that we have not been paying for music or bookkeeping staff. All assets, including reserve, challenge, earmarked, and Wake Now Our Vision funds, came to \$481,435. The proposed budget contains a high level of planned reserve spending, including \$20,000 for the ministerial search and moving expenses, and \$1,900 for new gutters. The Board decided to move ahead with a high level of deficit spending due to the previous pandemic year, and its optimism about the return to normalcy in the coming year. Patti Ridley moved that the proposed budget be approved. Caroljean seconded the motion. The motion to approve the budget passed unanimously.

Mike Kercher presented a request that Wake Now Our Vision funds be used to acquire live streaming capabilities which would expand our presence in the wider world. The total budget amount would be \$3,600. Caroljean Bongo moved that up to \$3,000 from Wake Now Our Vision funds be used for Live Streaming. Garth Shanklin seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion passed.

Leadership Development Team member, Rhonda Woodard, presented the following slate of candidates for the Board of Directors:

President: Marcie Kindred

Vice-President: Elaine Hayes

Treasurer: Camellia El-Antably

Secretary (open)

At large member, serving a two-year term: Emily Smith

Also serving will be Mike Kercher as Past President, and Garth Shanklin and Gene Heater in their second year of their at-large terms.)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this slate of candidates.

The motion passed.

Rhonda Woodard presented the following slate of candidates for the Committee on Shared Ministry: Mac Marino: 1 year to fill the term of Jan Behrens

Birgitt Paul- 2-year term

Lauren Danley-2-year term

Natalie Vernon-2-year term

(Also serving is Carol Bowles in the 2nd year of her term.)

Rhonda Woodard moved that the slate be approved.

Gene Heater seconded it.

The motion passed.

Rhonda Woodard presented the name of Mike Shonsey to serve a three-year term on the Investment Committee. Randy Bruns and Steve Furtney will continue on that committee. A motion was made and seconded to approve Mike Shonsey serving on the Investment Committee. The motion passed.

A discussion regarding the Ministerial Search process was facilitated by Camellia El-Antably and Marcie Kindred to help the Board understand how the congregation wants to be served. Camellia explained some of the key characteristics of the different options.

Settled minister: called and hired by the congregation; may stay as long as both the congregation and minister choose.

Contract minister: hired and supervised by the Board; contract is for one year at a time.

Teaching/Pilot Program minister: launching pad for new ministers. Congregation must be healthy and financially sound.

Key points of discussion:

- Rev. Hannah will be leaving a year from July or August, 13-14 months from now.
- Rev. Hannah and Mike met with the UUA. Only two congregations are part of the Pilot Program, UCC being one of them. A congregation must be a strong congregation to be part of this program. It is like a badge of honor that should help us draw talent, and maybe someone who is willing to commit to being here for five years.
- No interim is required for Pilot Program
- Settled ministry is a highly structured approach.
- If we do not find someone through a settled search, there are multiple choices, such as shifting to a search for a contract minister, or participating in the second round of the settled search.
- Contract ministry generally attracts a smaller pool of candidates than the settled search, though it varies from year to year.
- We are not locked in with a contract minister.
- The Pilot Program is a less expensive way to go.
- Our financial situation needs to be considered.
- More than just finances need to be considered; a settled ministry is more covenantal and usually lasts longer.
- We are the perfect size for a Teaching/Pilot program.
- None of our previous interim ministers were trained as interims because we did not have the money to afford a trained interim. Hiring a certified interim minister might be a different experience.
- The congregation needs to be clear about its proposed compensation packet and how it will discern what the compensation will be.
- The search process for a settled minister includes a discernment period. The Search

Committee would seek the priorities of the congregation.

- The Board will make the decision regarding the type of search we will conduct at its June meeting, and is trying to get a sense of the congregation's preference.
- It will put a plan together to propose to the congregation.
- If the decision is made to pursue a settled minister, we would probably need another congregational meeting in July to elect a Search Committee.

Mike expressed thanks to outgoing Board members, Caroljean Bongo and Bob Weinland for their service on the Board, to Emily Smith for her service on the Investment Committee, to Jan Behrens for her service on CoSM, and to Camille Furtney for acting as Board Secretary.

Camellia El-Antably expressed thanks to Mike Kercher for serving as Board President.

Rev. Hannah offered closing words and extinguished the chalice. The meeting was adjourned.