



Fall Congregational Meeting Minutes
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Santa Rosa
12 October 2014

Quorum Count – Jeanie Bates, Board of Trustees (BOT) President confirmed that the attendees exceeded 20% of membership, constituting a quorum.

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Jeanie Bates

BOT Members Present -- Susan Bartholome, Jeanie Bates (President), Marilyn Beckerbauer, Joe Como, Alan Proulx, Linda Stabler, Pamela Tennant

Opening Words & Chalice Lighting by Minister, Reverend Chris Bell

Parliamentarian & Recorder – Ellen Skagerberg and Terry Graham were appointed meeting parliamentarian and recorder, respectively.

FY14/15 Board of Trustees introduced by Jeanie. In addition to Jeanie: Susan Bartholome, Marilyn Beckerbauer, Joe Como, Alan Proulx, Linda Stabler, Pamela Tennant and Marge Wright (absent). J.D. Thompson has resigned from BOT.

Agenda Review – “Web Page Report” was added, following “Appreciations”

Approval of Minutes – The minutes of the 8 June 2014 Spring Congregational Meeting were approved as amended.

Treasurer’s Report – Linda Balabanian, Treasurer and chair of Financial Stewardship (FinStew) gave an overview of the fiscal year (FY) 2013/14 and the new FY14/15. FY13/14 was a good year, ending on budget. Pledge revenue was \$16K over budget, as projected later in the year. Donations and Sunday Basket were under budget although an anonymous, out-of-budget donation funded the ceiling mounted projector special project. Expenses were over budget by \$15K, the amount of the Electrical Panel expenditure that was not funded by the Building Systems Reserve Fund. That fund, formerly \$28K, was depleted as of year end but stands at \$3K at present. After the dust settled, the Glaser Center had a net loss of \$10K. Overall, the FY13/14 was stable although several large equipment replacements were accomplished. FY14/15 is off to a good start with pledge revenue over the estimated budget and expenses under estimated budget. No budget is yet established for the current year; to be addressed later in the meeting. FY14/15 expenses will continue to be subject to cuts as the budget process goes forward. Linda appealed to the congregation to financially support the ministries of UUCSR, particularly mentioning the Service Auction, e-scrip, pledges & gifts.

Presentation of the Budget – Kirsten Olney, Budget Task Force (BTF) Chair & FinStew member, presented the proposed FY14/15 budget. Kirsten thanked the BTF members, Linda Balabanian, Janis Brewster, Joanne Cleckner, Sibyl Day, Laura Jean Hageman and Mary Louise Jaffray. The BTF compiles data and information from the Committees, the Spring Congregational meeting, Financial Stewardship and BOT. Notable items relative to the budget presented at the Spring meeting include (a) an increase in UUA & PCD dues from 75% to 90% of “fair share”, (b) implementation of the Glaser Center restructuring budget changes, (c) BOT-approved staff compensation changes and (d) pledge estimates unchanged from FY13/14. Other notable items include (a) a transfer of \$1.8K from Saturday Breakfast to fund extra janitorial & carpet cleaning expenses, (b) a transfer of \$7K from the Endowment Fund to cover the non-recurring costs of establishing the new web site, and (c) expectations that the Glaser Center will have \$15K increased net income than in FY13/14. The budgeted Revenue is \$523k, the Expense is \$531K; achieving a balanced budget with the aforementioned \$8.8K of transfers. The motion and second from the floor to approve the budget was passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Bylaw Budget Timeline Proposal – Jeanie introduced the BOT-recommended proposed budget bylaw revision. The change entails presentation of the budget to the congregation for approval at the Spring Congregational meeting, during the final month of the FY, such that an approved budget can be in place at the initiation of the FY. Currently, a preliminary budget is presented at the Spring Congregational meeting but an approved budget cannot be attained until the Fall Congregational meeting which is the 4th month of the FY. BOT member Joe Como motioned that Bylaws Article IV, Section 2 be amended from “Present draft budget for the coming fiscal year, Present preliminary budget for the coming year, Vote on final budget for the fiscal year” to “Present draft budget for the coming fiscal year, Present and vote on budget for the coming fiscal year”. The motion was seconded from the floor and unanimously approved without abstentions.

Endowment Committee Nomination – Bob Barrows, Nominating Committee Chair, explained that the Endowment Committee currently has 6 members & shall be composed of not less than 5 and not greater than 8 members. The

Nominating Committee nominated Diana Breslich for Endowment Committee membership. A motion and second from the floor to approve Diana passed unanimously without abstentions.

Advocates for Social Justice (A4SJ) Officer and Steering Committee Approval – Linda Harlow, A4SJ Chair, submitted the following candidates for officers for approval: Chair, Linda Harlow; Secretary, Phyllis Clement; Treasurer, Lynn Ripenhoff and the following nominees for steering committee approval: Phyllis Fitzgerald, Mary Louise Jaffray & John Jaffray, Cassandra Lista, Becky Montgomery and Pat Warner. A motion and second from the floor to approve all nominees passed unanimously without abstentions.

General Assembly (GA) Delegate Report – Jan Ogren and father, Ken Ogren provided an entertaining & informative pictorial power-point report of their attendance at the UU GA meeting in Providence, Rhode Island, 25-29 June 2014 which had the theme, “Love Reaches Out”. Colorful displays of banners, building rappelling, services/music, and a water-fire event were presented. A vote on the study/action issue was taken by the GA to determine which issue will be central for 4 years. The Assembly selected “Escalating Inequality” which finished second amongst the 5 choices voted on at the UUSCR Winter Congregational Meeting. Jan & Ken encouraged UUCSR to increase the UUA funding for FY14/15 from 90% to 100%. Further, they launched the idea of a caravan from Santa Rosa to Portland, OR for the 2015 GA.

Homeless Service Action Group – Sarah Jones, together with Joy Derry, John Jaffray, Judy Meyer, Ellen O’Hare and Judy Wismer have worked toward UUCSR joining the Redwood Gospel Mission’s Nomadic Shelter (NS) program. They have distributed congregational surveys, conducted an educational program including an article in the October Newsletter, conducted 3 informational forums for the congregation and interfaced with A4SJ, Operations, and FinStew & BOT to determine & resolve concerns. Bedding will be provided by NS. UUCSR will host 4-nights per winter, screened homeless to be delivered to UUCSR at 6 p.m., staying until 7 a.m. The 4-nights will not interfere with scheduled events. Two UUCSR volunteers will stay overnight with 2 staff members from NS; an option to prepare & share a meal would require UUCSR 10 volunteers. UUCSR volunteers will be trained by NS. A motion and second from the floor that UUCSR join the Redwood Gospel Mission’s Nomadic Shelter (NS) program was approved with 1 “nay” and 3 abstentions.

Glaser Center Committee (GCC) Report – Mary Louise Jaffray reported that the GCC, reporting to BOT, has accepted the responsibility of helping to ensure the efficient management of the GC rentals & events. This time of transition has provided an opportunity to look anew at the GC. Priorities are being established to allocate building space/schedule; congregational programs having highest priority. Janis Brewster is the rental POC & schedule manager. In addition to setting priorities, staff training, rental rates, policies & procedures are being established. There are scheduled events that will go forward including the first of two Showcase Concerts, 25 October. In addition to Mary Louise, the GCC consists of Joe Como, Elizabeth Marrs, Ted Miller, & J.D. Thompson with Barrie Noe joining the group soon.

BOT FY14/15 Goal Groups – Jeanie introduced the BOT goal group members. The Facilities/Infrastructure group consists of Joe Como & Pamela Tennant. The pair will solicit capital addition ideas from the congregation. The existing list includes building security, social hour noise reduction, solar panel & “greening” of the facility, painting sanctuary walls, new carpeting of the Green Room and restroom counter replacement. The Community Support & Communication group consists of Susan Bartholome, Jeanie Bates & Marge Wright. The group will be emphasizing website development, Committee/BOT liaisons, encouraging congregational participation at BOT meetings, “talk to a Board member” table, the annual Activities Fair, leadership development, parents & children, and investigation of a potential campus ministry. The Vision-Planning group consists of Marilyn Beckerbauer, Reverend Chris Bell, Alan Proulx & Linda Stabler. Alan discussed the long range planning aspects of this embryonic group.

Appreciations -- Susan Bartholome recognized contributions of time, energy, and leadership which have notably contributed to the vitality of the congregation. Recognized were both Susan Dickey, a major contributor to the Religious Education and the “Women Together” programs and Bob & Monica Anderson, major contributors behind the Saturday Breakfast program.

Website Report – Eric Skagerberg, Communications Team Chair, demonstrated “live”, some of the features of the new UUCSR website. The site is being launched & will permit real-time updates by designated Committee & staff individuals to help ensure that the site attains & remains relevant. Training for content contributors is planned for the 3rd week of November. The site will provide for “members only” access to the member directories & selected items. In addition to Eric, the Communication team consists of Laura Jean Hageman, Andrew Hidas, Sybil Hunt, Mary Louise Jaffray, Ted Miller and AnnaLisa Wiley. Including Eric, the Website Technical team consists of Scott Doty, Sean Freese, Nicole Hatley, Joe McCarty and Peter Wilson.

State of the Congregation & Closing Words – Reverend Chris Bell observed that the congregation had thrived during his sabbatical & that the services were excellent – the congregational community is vibrant; both within the congregation & within the community. The NBOP relationship is alive & the BOT continues to achieve its goals. The children’s RE program has attained critical mass, requiring increased facility pressures. Reverend Chris encouraged making the RE Director a full-time position. The Glaser Center transition & dialogue was well conducted; demonstrating the best in ourselves during difficult times. The Islamic Society is likely to become a longtime resident & efforts to encourage cross-congregational interaction may be forthcoming. There has been some interest in the unoccupied building to the south – it will be open for congregation members to tour in November. Sundays are alive with the “spirit of life” – special thank you to the Worship Associates & the Music Committee.

Meeting Appreciations/Questions -- In response to a query from the floor, Reverend Chris stated that plans are for Sadie Sonntag, Choir Director, and Richard Riccardi, Pianist, to no longer be considered as temporary & will remain with the congregation “as long as they will have us”. Reverend Chris & Jeanie offered thank you to the Men’s Retreat volunteers for the pre-meeting breakfast. Jeanie offered thank you to Eric Howseman & Eric Skagerberg for the power-point presentations and to Sibyl Day for fulfilling the “head counter” role.

Meeting Adjourned by Jeanie Bates at 10:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted -- Terry Graham