

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION, SANTA ROSA  
June 10, 2018**

**MINUTES**

**Meeting called to order** at 11:07 am — Natalie Brundred, President, Board of Trustees

**Meeting Welcome/Introduction:** Natalie Brundred

Congregational Meeting packets will be sent via both USPS mail *and* email for a while. Members can email Janis Brewster to clarify which they prefer: Administrator@uusantarosa.org.

**Notification of Assistant Minister and Director of Religious Education:** Natalie Brundred

Natalie officially notified the Congregation that two new staff members have been hired.

Rev. Dara Olandt will be our new, part-time, Assistant Minister (AM). She is currently the Chaplain and Director of Spiritual Life at Mills College and has been working to create a campus ministry there.

Jen Freese is our new Director of Religious Education (DRE).

**Minutes** from the previous Congregational Meeting (February 11, 2018) were adopted without objection.

**Treasurer's report:** Michael Randolph, Treasurer

As of April 30, we are running close to break-even for the 2017/18 fiscal year ending June 30. At end of fiscal year we should be in good shape.

**Approval of Endowment Fund distribution for Fiscal Year 2018/19:** Michael Randolph

This year \$12,300 will be available from the Endowment Fund (EF). The Board of Trustees (BoT) recommends using \$10,000 for acoustical tiles in the Social Hall, and \$2,300 for launching the new campus

ministry program. Michael Randolph moved that the Congregation vote on the recommendation. The motion was seconded.

Installing tiles in the low ceiling section will result in a noticeable reduction noise level. The committee is continuing its research on options and costs.

**VOTE:** The motion was called and carried unanimously, with 1 abstention.

**Presentation of proposed FY 2018/19 budget:** Michael Randolph

We'll need to raise \$65,000 total in additional pledges to balance the budget for the coming fiscal year, not \$60,000 as originally notified. To date, \$33,000 of that has been raised.

**Approval of the 2018/19 fiscal year budget.** Michael made the motion and it was seconded.

Having a pre-school is not a dead issue, but we have not yet found a partner. If we do not raise all the \$65,000 in increased pledges, we have sufficient funds in savings we could use if we have to.

**VOTE:** The motion was called. The 2018/19 FY Budget was approved unanimously.

**Endowment Fund Presentation:** Reid Stinnett, Endowment Committee Chair

Endowment Committee members are: Helga Lemke, Michael Randolph, Mary Lill Lee, Robin Rogers and Susan Dickey.

The committee assists members in giving to the Endowment Fund, and joining the Legacy Circle. The Legacy Circle is all of the members who've made provisions in their wills to leave funds to UUCSR, or via another mechanism such as naming UUCSR as an IRA beneficiary.

**Nomination and election of Endowment Committee member and representatives at UU General Assembly:** Richard Senghas, Chair, Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee nominated Louise Ostlund to become a member of the Endowment Committee. Several seconds were made.

**VOTE:** Louise Ostlund was approved unanimously.

Members of the Nominating Committee: Mark Sowers, Barrie Noe, Bertha Jean Schmidt, Ellen Skagerberg.

Richard requested nominations for representatives to this year's General Assembly (Kansas City MO, June 20-24, 2018) from the floor. Susan Panttaja and Carol Kraemer volunteered to be offsite delegates. Richard nominated both candidates and the motion was seconded. There was no discussion.

**VOTE:** Susan Panttaja and Carol Kraemer were approved unanimously.

**Naming Opportunities Policy:** Richard Senghas, Committee member

Richard moved that the naming policy be approved.

**VOTE:** The motion to adopt the Naming Opportunities Policy and background note carried unanimously.

**Advocates for Social Justice (A4SJ) report and ratification of Chair:** Linda Harlow, Chair, A4SJ

Projects this year include the film series, diversity project, hot topics, share-the-basket, work on housing and environmental issues, and more. Linda is retiring as chair.

The Advocates officers will be: Elaine Wellin – chair, Lynn Riepenhoff – treasurer, Linda Lambert – secretary.

The A4SJ Charter has been revised as follows:

- Anyone who comes to an A4SJ meeting can vote.
- There is a new process for selecting projects. The process now clearly defines a set of criteria for adopting a new project.

The Advocates nominated Elaine Wellin to be their new chair. The nomination was seconded. There was no discussion.

**VOTE:** Elaine Wellin was approved unanimously.

**Proposed changes to Bylaws:** Ellen Skagerberg, Member, Bylaws Revision Task Force

The Bylaws Task Force members are: Mary Louise Jaffray, John Mason, Natalie Brundred, and Ellen Skagerberg.

**Article II, Section 1:** Proposed changes would: modify the wording of the Purpose; add our Covenant, Mission, and Vision; and make a word change in our Mission: Caring ~~about~~ *for* one another. Trustee Sean Freese moved that these changes be approved.

This is consistent with what we're trying to do, and it's articulating it and keeping it in front of us. It's elaborating *our* mission, not just UUA's.

**VOTE:** The motion was passed unanimously with one abstention.

**Substitute "Pacific Western Region" or "PWR" for "Pacific Central District" and "PCD"** throughout the Bylaws, to reflect the recent change in the UUA's structure. Trustee Gretchen Paradis moved to approve these changes. No discussion.

**VOTE:** The motion was passed unanimously.

**Article IV, Section 2: Times and Agendas.** This change would result in a minimum of two business meetings per year, and change the calendar of required items at each meeting. Trustee Natalie moved to approve these changes.

Some members noted that additional meetings can be called as needed, and that the proposal is to set up regular congregational non-voting meetings, which could be converted to a voting business meeting with notice, if needed.

Some members said these meetings are part of the process by which we live our values as an institution, and value a space where people get to talk.

A member of the Task Force reminded people that we're talking about having a minimum of two "just business" meetings. There are provisions to call additional voting meetings and informational meetings.

Someone noted that an October "Town Hall" meeting would encourage people to participate in open mic. It was noted that we'll have more flexible time in the third meeting.

Bob Barrows called the question. A substantial majority voted yea, a small number voted nay, and there were 3 abstentions.

**VOTE:** To revise Article IV, Section 2 of the Bylaws. By a show of raised hands the motion carried.

In favor: the overwhelming majority (>2/3)

Against: 7

Abstentions: 4

**Article VI, Section 2: Election of Trustee Officers:** To approve proposed language that adjusts the timing of this function in light of

the previous vote. Trustee Gretchen Paradis moved to adopt the new language. No discussion.

**VOTE:** The motion carried unanimously.

**Article VI, Section 5: Treasurer:** To add language requiring the Treasurer to report to the Congregation after closing each year's fiscal books. Trustee Sean moved to adopt the new language. No discussion.

**VOTE:** The motion carried unanimously.

**Congregational Policy on Congregational Gatherings:** Requires that the Board call at least one meeting of the congregation, most likely in October, for open discussion. Trustee Natalie moved to adopt this policy.

A congregant suggested we add a requirement to the Bylaws that we keep an updated list of policies by date and title, so we can know what's been passed. Natalie stated it is one of her goals to get all the charters, policies and procedures updated and in one place this year.

Natalie stated that the purpose of the meeting in this policy is to discuss and think and be together.

**VOTE:** The motion carried unanimously, with 2 abstentions.

**Board Report:** Natalie Brundred, President, Board of Trustees  
We start the new congregational year July 1.  
We'll elect officers at the June Board meeting, wrap up this year and set up next year, collaborate with the Stewardship Committee to raise the funds needed for our new Assistant Minister, define our goals and how we want to move forward, and then we'll get to work and make it happen.

The next big item on our horizon is hiring a Communications Director. Having a paid staff person is necessary; it's too big a job for a volunteer committee to do.

We are a growing, strong, healthy congregation because of our members' heart, passion, love, joy, and commitment.

**Appreciations:** Natalie Brundred, President, Board of Trustees

**Jeanie Bates** - for many critical contributions to UUCSR, including Friday Fun Night, BoT President, TIE leader and training; A4SJ and co-facilitating the fire support group.

**Linda Harlow** - retiring as chair of A4SJ after 4 years; Women Together co-leader.

**Erin Howseman** - Worship Associate, co-chair of Worship Associates, a driving force behind the Circle of Voices book. Especially acknowledging her for establishing and chairing the Stewardship Team - she is the driving force and keeper of the vision, growing a culture of generosity. She has spearheaded the effort to raise funds for our AM. All on top of losing her home in October.

### **Open forum/questions/concerns/appreciations/aspirations**

Mary Chapot and Susan Panttaja have joined a nationwide UU musicians group. They will be attending a conference in Portland August 1-5, and look forward to expanding their ways of creating music.

Dee Ray informed us that the date for the Annual Auction will be March 2nd next year.

We have plans for the next phase of renovating the upstairs, but first we need the funds for our Assistant Minister, then a Communications Director, and after that will come the upstairs.

Katie Trieller asked that we join the National Me Too movement, and have an event here around the "Hunting Ground" film, which was nominated for an Academy Award. She will write out a brief description and send to Natalie.

**Closing Words:** Rev. Chris Bell, Senior Minister

Rev. Chris noted that we had a vote of consequence where not everyone agreed. It shows that we're a mature enough community to handle some tension and disappointment.

**Meeting Adjourned at 1:00 pm.**

*Next Town Hall Meeting: October 21, 2018*

*Next Congregational Meeting: January 27, 2019*

Minutes respectfully submitted by Susan Thollaug, Recording Secretary.