

Minutes of the 2023 UUCL Spring Congregational Meeting: May 21, 2023

Forum: Hybrid: In-person (32 in attendance) and Zoom (41 in attendance)

Board of Trustees President Fred Foster-Clark convened the meeting at 11:54 and lit a chalice. Rev. Patricia Guthmann Haresch gave a reading.

1. Elections: George Herr-Riser introduced three candidates for the two Board seats which will be vacated on June 30, 2023, as Fred Foster-Clark and Alan Jacobs complete their second terms, a total of six years for each. The candidates—Matt Bruns, Susan Lithgoe, and Lou Ann Miller—each spoke briefly. The attending congregants voted, and later in the meeting the results were announced. Susan and Lou Ann were selected for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2023.

Jonas Kauffman was re-elected Treasurer, and Carol Myers and Carla Martin were appointed to vacancies on the Leadership Development Committee

2. Budget approval: Treasurer Jonas Kauffman and Financial Advisory Committee chair John Snyder gave a brief review of the proposed 2023-2024 operating budget, which had been introduced at a Town Hall meeting two weeks previously. Jonas said, “We’re in pretty good shape right now,” but to date are \$29,000 short of this year’s goal. Both stressed the importance of fulfilling pledges. John noted that last year’s 125 pledging units had dropped so far this year to 115, with the median pledge being \$1,250, and that a major challenge is to restore pledging units to 125. Without more congregants pledging, “we are not on a sustainable path right now,” John said.

John and Jonas answered several questions from audience members regarding proposed expenditure line items. Following the questions and answers, **George Herr-Riser moved and David Dobbins seconded that the 2023-2024 proposed budget be passed as written. The motion was passed unanimously, with no abstentions.**

3. Updates and reports:

- President Fred submitted a five-page annual report for the 2022-2023 church year. He thanked Jonas and Rev. Pat for their help with the report. In addition, he thanked Committee on Ministry members Randy Newswanger, Stephanie Santiago, Rev. Elizabeth Shuba, and Kay Welty for their work in the past year. He also thanked the members of the Action Planning Task Force (Marianne Smith, Graham Capobianco, Paula Jackson, Linda Kinney, Kay Welty) for their work on prioritizing steps to meet UUCL goals. He, with Kay, Carole Campbell, and a yet-to-be-named UUCL member will serve as the monitoring group for the Action Plan’s implementation.
- Steve Jones reported on the Safer Congregations Committee’s progress to date in the church year. The SCC also includes Ray Bradley and Marian Joyce. He noted an updated camera system, an improved door-locking system, an updated intercom system, a dedicated group of greeters and ushers, a successful evacuation drill earlier this year, and the pending approval of a \$10,000 PA grant

for security measures. He also highlighted an upcoming Zoom workshop led by Rev. Sunshine Wulfe, who addressed the UUCL congregation earlier this year. People interested in the Zoom workshop should contact Kelsey Holl in the church office.

- Rev. Pat gave a brief report, thanking the candidates and urging members to read Fred's year-end summary. She noted that summer service planning is ongoing. She said that resilience capsulized the past UUCL year, "a year of repair," with members "leading with love" and demonstrating flexibility and risk-taking. She suggested that we consider taking more risks and "stretch[ing] out more" in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Chappell, Secretary