Minutes for the UUC Special Congregational Meeting on January 30, 2022 at 1:00pm via ZOOM

1. **Call to Order, Appointment of Secretary, Parliamentarian, Tellers, and Confirmation of Quorum**
Sarah Walker, Moderator, called the Zoom meeting to order. The Teller reported 129 in attendance including the 11 panelists meeting the quorum requirement of 47 [10% of eligible membership]. The Moderator recognized individuals performing official duties for this meeting: Eric Valpey (Parliamentarian), Kathleen Cromp & Patricia Graesser (Tellers), Gayle Childers (Secretary) with special thanks to Byron Krystad, Jessica Monahan, Janine Larsen and the Operations team for helping this meeting run smoothly.

The Board has set forward two motions for this meeting. The Moderator stated we will be using Robert’s Rules per our Bylaws and provided a brief review, referring attendees to the previously published Gateway article on the website for more details. Robert’s Rules are used as a way to discuss business and to keep the meeting moving efficiently in a balanced way. The Moderator described the process for voting on items: ask for the motion to be made, seconded, and open the floor for debate, followed by voting. Motion debate was structured where speakers had 3 minutes to express their thoughts, alternating between for and against until debate is closed. Voting was done through online polling with those connected by phone having had the opportunity to vote through absentee ballots.

Three common subsidiary motions were noted that could be used in response to a motion made: 1) postpone consideration of the motion, 2) refer to committee or 3) amend the language. The Moderator reiterated the request as stated in the Gateway article] to not amend the motion due to complexity of language and negating absentee votes, instead to refer to committee. Clarifications were also provided on the use of Point of Order [procedural concern], Point of Information [request information from speaker] and Point of Privilege [environmental distraction to having discussion]; they are not intended for sharing opinions.

Sarah shared a personal story of gratitude in finding UUC where her progressive views are heard, where voting on core religious principles is a statement of faith and shows the capacity of humans to deliberate and stay in community and connection, despite differing views. Thank you.

2. **Motion to approve agenda**
The Moderator called for the motion to approve the agenda for this meeting. The motion was made, seconded and with no discussion requested, passed with 126 votes cast – 124 YES, no objections and 2 abstentions. [simple majority requirement met]

3. **Motion to accept the Minutes of the June 13, 2021 Annual Meeting**
The Moderator called for the motion to approve the minutes from the June 13, 2021 Annual Meeting. The motion was made, seconded and with no discussion requested, passed with 139 votes cast – 130 YES, with no objections and 9 abstentions. [simple majority requirement met]

4. **Financial Update**
The Moderator invited Rev. Jon Luopa, Sr. Minister to offer introductory remarks. Rev. Luopa noted that the addition of mid-year updates to the congregation a few years ago is needed as we have more information than we typically do at the annual meeting on programmatic and financial positions. We are
learning more about our changing pledging patterns and our reliance on legacy funds. We need each other as we navigate these changes.

Rev. Luopa introduced Mike Kasprzak, Board Treasurer. As of December 31, 2021, we are half-way through our fiscal year. The revenue for annual operating budget is dependent on pledges which accounts for ~93% of the budget [~$911k of $955k]. The ~$45k gap is being partially offset by an increase in plate donations and other donations which are ~$8k ahead from this time last year. Two areas of concern: 1) we received 340 pledges for the $911k, leaving a gap of $45k. If not closed, the gap will be closed by drawing down on our operating reserves and pinching expenses that will not be painless. 2) Actual pledge fulfillment is $11k less when compared to this time last year. The fulfillment percentage decline is trending the last 5 years with history showing these often are not fulfilled.

Call to Action: Double check your mid-year giving statement. If you are behind and can catch up or if you would like to increase your giving, contact Byron Krystad.

Regarding expenses, we are ahead of budget with salary/benefit and program expenses below budget. General operating expenses are over budget due to investments in technology/kiosks, and learning about new building maintenance. We will have a better handle on expenses for future years.

Finally, budgeting is but a manifestation of what we remind ourselves each Sunday: This church is a community of ourselves. Its energy and resources are our energy and resources. Its wealth is what we share. When we contribute to the life of this community, we affirm our lives within it.

5. Motions regarding Bylaws replacement
The Moderator explained that 4 of the 5 motions require a simple majority to pass and the final motion to replace the bylaws requires a 2/3 majority to pass. The recommended language is included in the initial motions; should the motion fail, the alternative language will be voted on. Rosemary Daszkiewicz, Board President made and spoke in favor of each initial motion. John Webber spoke in favor of the recommended language.

a) Article II. Membership: Section 2.3. Resignation or Removal (d)
The Moderator called for the motion to approve the recommended language for Article II. Membership: Section 2.3. Resignation or Removal (d). The motion was made and seconded* and the floor was opened for debate.

Rosemary Daszkiewicz acknowledged the Bylaws Working Group that included herself, Rev. Luopa, Chuck Harwood and John Webber. There was agreement on the Bylaw revisions with the exception of the 4 motions brought forth to the congregation in this meeting.

After closing the debate, the Moderator called for the vote. The motion passed with 187 votes cast – 153 YES, 10 NO and 24 abstentions. [simple majority requirement met; 81.8%]

b) Article III. Elected Positions and Officers: Section 3.1. Meetings (a)
The Moderator called for the motion to approve the recommended language for Article III. Elected Positions and Officers: Section 3.1. Meetings (a). The motion was made, seconded and the floor was opened for debate.
After closing the debate, the Moderator called for the vote. The motion passed with 182 votes cast – 150 YES, 22 NO and 10 abstentions. [simple majority requirement met; 82.4%]

c) **Article III. Congregational Meetings: Section 3.3. Presiding Officer (c)**
   The Moderator called for the motion to approve the recommended language for Article III. Congregational Meetings: Section 3.3. Presiding Officer (c). The motion was made, seconded and floor opened for debate. After closing the debate, the Moderator called for the vote. The motion passed with 184 votes cast – 162 YES, 12 NO and 10 abstentions. [simple majority requirement met; 88%]

d) **Article IV. Elected Positions and Officers: Section 4.3. Nominations (a)**
   The Moderator called for the motion to approve the recommended language for Article IV. Elected Positions and Officers: Section 4.3. Nominations (a). The motion was made, seconded and floor opened for debate. After closing the debate, the Moderator called for the vote. The motion passed with 183 votes cast – 131 YES, 28 NO and 24 abstentions. [simple majority requirement met; 71.6%]

e) **Replace the current UUC Bylaws with Proposed UUC Bylaws**
   The Moderator called for the motion to replace the current UUC Bylaws with Proposed UUC Bylaws including all language decisions made during this meeting. This change shall become effective on February 1, 2022. The motion was made, seconded and the floor opened for debate. A new motion (2) was made to refer motion (1) back to committee for further study. The motion (2) was seconded and opened for debate. A new motion (3) was made to call the previous question and stop debate on motion (2) to refer motion (1) to back to committee. The motion (3) was seconded and passed with 159 votes cast – 141 YES, 12 NO and 6 abstentions. [2/3 majority requirement met]. The result of this vote is an immediate vote on motion (2) to refer motion (1) back to committee. This motion (2) failed with 154 votes cast – 34 YES, 113 NO and 7 abstentions. [simple majority requirement met]. The Moderator closed debate on the original motion. A new motion (4) was made to call the previous question and stop debate. The motion was seconded and passed with 156 votes cast – 150 YES, 2 NO and 4 abstentions. [2/3 majority requirement met].

* Before the first bylaw motion was seconded, Sara Jane Siegfried asked whether a grammatical correction could be made to the Bylaws, without requiring a vote, to Article II. Membership: Section 2.1 Qualifications(e) – changing ‘emeritus/emerita’ to ‘lifetime membership’ because the former relates to someone who held positions of authority. Rosemary Daszkiewicz, Board President, declined to accept the revision during this set of bylaw revisions.

The initial motion to replace the current UUC Bylaws with Proposed UUC Bylaws including all language decisions made during this meeting. This change shall become effective on February 1, 2022 passed with 183 votes cast – 161 YES, 12 NO and 10 abstentions. [2/3 majority requirement met; 88%].

6. **Motion to adopt the 8th Principle**
   The Moderator called for the motion to adopt the 8th Principle: Move that UUC adopts the following as its 8th Principle: “We covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to
build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.”

The motion was made by Jewels Mellen, seconded and the floor was opened for debate. Jewels Mellen spoke on behalf of the motion.

A new motion (1) was made to refer motion back to committee for further study. The motion was seconded and opened for debate. A new motion (2) was made to call the previous question and stop debate on the motion (1). This motion (2) was seconded and passed with 159 votes cast – 129 YES, 27 NO and 3 abstentions [2/3 majority required and met]. Motion (1) failed with 158 votes cast – 36 YES, 118 in opposition and 4 abstentions. Debate continued on the original motion. A new motion (3) was made to call the question and stop debate on the original motion. The motion (3) passed with 160 votes cast – 134 YES, 23 NO and 3 abstentions [2/3 majority required and met]. The original motion passed with 183 votes cast – 136 YES, 14 NO and 10 abstentions, including absentee votes [2/3 majority required and met; 86.9%].

7. Motion to adjourn

Before calling for the motion to adjourn, the Moderator thanked everyone and was very appreciative of the continued engagement throughout the meeting. Rosemary Daszkiewicz shared some remarks thanking everyone for their thoughtful participation at this meeting. We are reminded of our long period of change and uncertainty. This past year, we have had discussions on deeply important topics and we have showed up for one another, talking and continuing to talk. We are learning about ourselves, individually and collectively – some good with opportunities for growth, things to do better - to work on and reconnect on together. She is looking forward to continuing conversations, the growth we are having and the collective move to get better as a Beloved Community, and being in community together. Thank you.

The Moderator asked participants to signal their vote to adjourn by using the raised hand feature. Objections to adjournment were also invited. Hearing none, the Moderator adjourned the meeting at 4:15pm.

Recorded & submitted by Gayle Childers, Secretary | UUC Board of Trustees