Minutes for the UUC Special Congregational Meeting on June 12, 2022 at 10:30am via ZOOM

1. **Call to Order, Appointment of Secretary, Parliamentarian [optional], and Tellers; and Confirmation of Quorum**
   Sarah Walker, Moderator, welcomed all and is particularly glad to be with all in her last meeting as moderator and will join as a participant in future meetings. She called the Zoom meeting to order at 10:30am. 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 staff - Byron Krystad, Jessica Monahan, Janine Larsen and the Operations team for helping this with logistics in this meeting.

   The Teller reported 91 in attendance, meeting the quorum requirement of 50 [10% of eligible membership].

   The Moderator reviewed agenda, noting the main business of the meeting is the approval of the 2022-23 Annual Operating Budget and election of new Trustees and Moderator. She then used her Point of Privilege to express her gratitude for this community with all the world events, and shared a poem she found inspiring by poet Ayisha Siddiqa, youth climate activist – “On another panel about climate, they ask me to sell the future and all I’ve got is a love poem”.

   The Moderator reviewed logistics on meeting participation including the use of polls to vote and asked all to read the polls to ensure they know what they are voting on; using Point of Information to clarify questions asked and Point of Order for parliamentary procedure – neither of which will be used for back-and-forth discussion or sharing opinions; use chat for logistical questions; will use chat for capturing Board Q&A; UUC Website has more details on Robert’s Rules.

   The Board has set forward two motions for this meeting. The Moderator stated we will be using Robert’s Rules.

2. **Approval of the 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 98 votes cast – 97 YES, no objections and 1 abstention. [simple majority requirement met]

3. **Remembrance of members who have died since last Annual Meeting [Rev. Jon Luopa]**
   Rev. Jon Luopa shared those members who died since our last Annual Meeting: Judy Bedell, Betty Bouldin, Ann Bucher, Jim Bushnell, Shirley Cline, Frank DeMarco, Virginia Gunby, Phyllis Rosalli, Dick Sanders, Hazel Thomas, and Joseph Vance. May they rest in peace and rise in love.

4. **Motion to accept the Minutes of the January 30, 2022 Special Congregational Meeting**
The Moderator called for the motion to approve the minutes from the January 30, 2022 Annual Meeting. The motion was made, seconded and with no discussion requested, passed with 100 votes cast – 99 YES, with no objections and 1 abstention. [simple majority requirement met]

5. **President’s Report [Rosemary Daszkiewicz]**

What a year, feels like several lifetimes in a lot of ways, and is grateful that we can all sing together again, even though muffled through masks! This year marked an important step in the Board’s work towards improving our governance, passing our revised bylaws. This follows the Board’s adoption of new policies two years ago, and our work on identifying our two Open Questions and the Top Priority work for each of those. It does mean that our governance can, again, help us. When I first joined the board, it often felt that it hindered our work.

We continue to focus on our Open Question regarding anti racism. This year, our work advanced in large part because of the work of those who asked us to consider adopting the 8th principle. We learned a lot about ourselves – including some areas around really listening where we have work to do. At the same time, we’re digging deeper into what it will mean to US at UUC to continue on our anti racism journey. Just this week we had a fantastic conversation with about 12 members about the next steps in this important work.

We also spent time identifying the Top Priorities for our engagement work. They are interrelated in many ways, one of which identifies the need for a discernment process to deepen our understanding of what it means to be a hybrid church, and to meaningfully support a sense of belonging, engagement and commitment in that hybrid world. The second, a bit more prosaic but still critically important, is developing a plan to strengthen our communications systems and more effectively engage and communicate with our current and potential community.

I will also admit that we Board members are tired. We feel the strong call of the rest and relaxation that summer so often provides. This time, we hope, with real vacations and getaways that give us all time to restore and refresh.

Two wonderful people will cycle off the Board this year, Gayle Childers and Mike Kasprzak. Gayle is the force of nature who set us on the path of aligning ourselves around being laser focused on our work on governance in service of the mission of our church. Mike’s steady financial hand helped us through the challenges of a significant capital project, coming out the other side in a solid financial position.

We are also saying goodbye to Sarah, our extraordinary moderator, whose work at all meetings, but especially this past January, was such an effort of love for us all. Please give them your deepest thanks when next you see them.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being your President, and, with the passage of the new Bylaws I have accomplished what I set out to do in that role. Consequently, I look forward to yielding the gavel to another of my Board colleagues who will be selected by the Board when we meet next week. I have a strong suspicion who that person will be, but don’t want to jinx anything by saying their name. Let me just
say that they will be the perfect person for this particular time in our Beloved Community. You will not be disappointed.

With that, we’ll open the floor to your questions.

6. Open Q&A for Church Leadership
   Approximately 20 minutes were allocated to answer as many questions as possible raised in the chat box. If there are remaining unanswered questions, the Board will collect those questions and respond to the congregation. John Crusius, Board Trustee, is monitoring the chat and will read the questions aloud, directing to Board members. The Board will try to give as many people as possible the opportunity to ask questions. Only one question was raised during this time: What could congregants do more of, to help the leaders to pursue its strategic goals?

7. Approval of the 2022-23 Annual Operating Budget [Michael Kasprzak]
   Michael Kasprzak, Board Trustee, made the motion “Shall the congregation of University Unitarian Church approve the 2022-23 Operating Budget, as described in the 2022 Annual Meeting materials?”. The motion was made, seconded and the floor opened for discussion.

   Michael Kasprzak noted the process to develop the budget begins in January and concludes in May after the Finance and Board reviews drafts proposed by Byron Krystad, Director of Operations. The recommended budget is sound and sensible. The budget is available in the Annual Meeting materials, specifically pages 7-11, and the Budget Town Hall on 5/31 provided an opportunity to ask questions and dig deeper [the recording is available on the UUC Website]. A brief summary of budget highlights/lowlights was requested for those who did not attend the town hall, and was provided.

   The motion passed with 125 votes cast – 122 YES, 1 NO and 2 abstentions. [2/3 majority requirement met; 97.6%]

8. Election of new Trustees and Moderator
   Patricia Graesser, Board Trustee and Chair of the Nominating Committee, made the motion “Shall the congregation of University Unitarian Church elect the slate of candidates for the Board of Trustees and Moderator as announced by the Nominating Committee online in May 2022 and as documented in the 2022 Annual Meeting materials?”. The motion was seconded and opened for discussion.

   On behalf of the Board, Patricia Graesser thanked the Nominating Committee – Penny Hinke, Jerry Gillmore, Becca Fishaut, Jim Webb, Judith Leconte, Gary Shumway and Janine Larsen [staff]. Patricia Graesser became Chair upon the changes to the Bylaws in January 2022.

   The slate was made available on the UUC Website and sent to absentee ballots. Board Trustees, serving 3-year terms – Paula Nurius and Jim Thompson; and Moderator, serving a 2-year term – Chuck Harwood.

   The motion passed with 127 votes cast – 126 YES, with no objections and 1 abstention. [2/3 majority requirement met; 99.2%]
9. **Closing Words [Rev. Jon Luopa]**

This meeting is done in jig time! Close with words of gratitude. First, gratitude to Sarah Walker for her gracious facilitation, and inspiring facilitation of these meetings - thank you. To retiring Board members Michael Kasprzak and Gayle Childers, thank you for your examples of unstinting generosity of leadership during these most recent sets of challenges. To the Nominating Committee, it is not an easy task to look for people, particularly in this last year, with people hesitant to give so much of time – well done on the slate! To the members of this church, we continue to be surprised by your generosity, good will and patience in staying with us, because this organization is important to you. After 23 years, I continue marvel at how creative and generous you are - thank you. There is a phrase in the poem read by Sarah – ‘...love is the only revenge.’ What a wonderful way to think about this, particularly when feeling beaten up by the world and frustrated by our own responses. Going to a place of love, trying to love ourselves and each other, a future not yet real. If disheartened, think about this and meditate on how to make it real. Thank you and have a good summer!

10. **Motion to adjourn**

The Moderator thanked everyone for an efficient meeting. The Moderator called for the motion to adjourn this meeting. Before the motion was made, John Crusius asked whether we could adjourn the meeting with remaining budget questions unanswered in a public forum. The Moderator confirmed the earlier decision that all unanswered questions would be responded to by the Board. The Board President also noted that the Budget Town Hall was established for the deep dive.

The motion was made, seconded and with no discussion requested. The Moderator asked participants to signal their vote to adjourn by using the raised hand feature. The motion was passed with 102 YES. The meeting was adjourned at 11:27am.

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