

2024-2025 Congregational Meeting

June 8, 2025

Call to Order

- Kathleen McFarlin, President, thanked Peggy Hepler for catering the luncheon, emphasizing the importance of humanely raised meats as per the board's policy.
- Kathleen reminded attendees to use the microphone for comments and introduced Katherine Martin as the person running the microphone.
- Kathleen confirmed a quorum of 20% of eligible members was present.
- The chalice was lighted & Ralph Haller shared a reflection on the importance of active listening, open-mindedness, and mutual learning within the congregation.

Approval of Minutes – Annual Meeting June 9, 2024

- Kathleen requested approval by the congregation of the minutes from the last congregational meeting held a year ago.
- Craig Sperry made a motion to approve the minutes, and Jamie Pendarvis seconded it.
- Kathleen confirmed the motion with a Zoom poll, noting one opposed and no abstentions.

Status of Membership

- Melanie Malaviya, the chair of the membership committee, provided an update on new members and visitors, highlighting a 10-year high in membership.
- Melanie spoke about the tradition of awarding membership pins to members who have been part of the service for 25 years, with Dolly Doran being the recipient. Dolly was not present, but pin will be given to her on a future date.

Programs and Unsung Heroes Awards

- Kathleen introduced Judith Stamper, the VP of Programs, who discussed various groups and activities within the congregation.
- Judith highlighted the Unitarian Universalist Animal Ministry and the LGBTQ group as new influential groups.
- Judith talked about the annual church visit to Camp de Benneville Pines and encouraged attendees to sign up for upcoming trips.
- Judith introduced the Unsung Heroes awards, recognizing Nina Smith and Laurie Kluge for their extraordinary contributions behind the scenes.

- Nina Smith was praised for her leadership and dedication, while Laurie Kluge was recognized for her work on the pastoral care team.

Update on Sanctuary Construction

- Kathleen introduced Craig Sperry, the chair of the construction committee, and Linda Sperry, the chair of the sanctuary campaigns.
- Craig provided an update on the construction progress, mentioning the final punch list that will be reviewed in an upcoming meeting with the contractor.
- Craig discussed the pending approval from Southern California Edison for the final electricity turn-on and the testing of various systems.
- Craig mentioned the new sign for the church and the ongoing efforts to acquire the necessary permits from Costa Mesa.
- Craig highlighted the upcoming asphalt replacement project.
- Craig also announced the dedication and open house planned for September 6 and 7.

Donor Wall in New Sanctuary

- Linda Sperry discussed the donor wall in the new sanctuary, and it will acknowledge every donor regardless of the size of their contribution. She also emphasized the importance of correcting any errors in the donor list and encouraged attendees to review a mock-up of the sign, which will be on display at a later time.
- Linda recognized the members of the original capital campaign task force and their contributions.
- Linda thanked all donors for their commitment to the new sanctuary and the future growth of the congregation.
- Kathleen expressed gratitude to the construction committee members for their hard work and dedication.

Approval of the 2025 - 2026 Budget

- Kathleen introduced Nancy Loughrey, Vice President of Finance, to discuss funding for the Sanctuary construction, which has cost \$3.3 million.
- Nancy detailed the financial breakdown, including a \$1 million mortgage authorized last year. The UUA has transferred all their mortgages to the United Church of Christ, now called the Cornerstone Fund
- The endowment loan and \$75,000 from the endowment are highlighted as key financial sources.
- Nancy moved to acknowledge and affirm the financial details, which was seconded by Eric Noel.

- Speaker 1 emphasized the careful deliberation and consideration in managing costs, despite unforeseen expenses.
- Craig Preston asked for clarification of the mortgage details, noting the \$410,000 mortgage and the \$275,000 owed to the endowment fund.
- Nancy Loughrey explained the Spirit Level Foundation's generous contributions and the impact of the Spirit Level project.
- Speaker 17 comments on the interest rates, noting the fixed rate for the endowment fund and the five-year fixed rate for the mortgage.
- Dave praised Nancy Loughrey's work with managing the budget, and Nancy confirmed the mortgage is fixed for five years.
- The motion to acknowledge and affirm the financial details passed unanimously.
- Nancy Loughrey presented the operating budget, highlighting increased pledges and the impact of the new mortgage payment.
- The budget includes a 3% cost of living increase for staff and significant increases in religious education and music programs.
- Nancy discussed the use of reserves and the need to save \$25,000 annually from the endowment.
- The budget also includes a proposal to increase the Director of Religious Education's professional expenses by \$500.
- The motion to approve the budget as amended passes unanimously.

Farewell to Wendy Karn, Intern Minister

- Emily Scherping and Reverend Sian Wiltshire shared farewell remarks for Wendy Karn, intern minister, highlighting her growth and contributions over the past two years.
- Wendy received a special gift from the worship committee and the board, symbolizing her future as a minister.
- The congregation expressed their gratitude and blessed Wendy as she moves on to new opportunities.

Other New Business

- Maria Goode suggested the possibility of adding a jungle gym for children in the future, which is met with support but there are no immediate plans.
- Catherine proposes a name change from church to community, which is discussed as part of a broader visioning process.
- The need for a new kitchen and other facilities is acknowledged, with plans to address these needs in the future.
- The congregation discusses the potential for weddings and the importance of having a functional kitchen for events.

Election & Installation of Officers, Trustees, Stewards, and Nominators

- Eva Goodwin-Noriega presented the slate of new officers, including Kathleen McFarlin as President, Jamie Pendarvis as VP of Finance, and Katherine Martin as VP of Programs.
- The new trustees and stewards were also introduced, with Valerie Armstrong as the new steward chair.
- The motion to accept the new officers passed unanimously.
- The congregation thanked the outgoing officers for their service and contributions to the church.

Closing Remarks and Adjournment

- Kathleen McFarlin thanked the congregation for their participation and patience throughout the meeting.
- The congregation is invited to complete a feedback form regarding the UUA ministry funds.
- The meeting adjourns with a motion from Tom and a second from Franci, passing unanimously.

Action Items

Congregation encouraged to complete the congregational survey to gather feedback from members.