

Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley
Congregational Meeting
February 13, 2022
(by Zoom video conference)

MINUTES – Approved May 22, 2022

Call to Order and Determination of the Presence of a Quorum

President Beth Pollard called the meeting to order at 12:13 pm and, after some tech preliminaries, a quorum of at least 79 members was established. Rev. Michelle did a chalice lighting with a reading by Albert Schweitzer. Kerry Simpson read the Covenant of Right Relations and Ann Harlow read the land acknowledgment.

Adoption of the Agenda

A motion to adopt the agenda (M Selene Fabiano/S Marin Fischer) passed.

Minutes

The minutes of the May 23, 2021 Congregational Meeting (M David Roberts/S Selene Fabiano) were approved.

Presentation of Flaming Chalice Awards for extraordinary service:

Sheldon Jones presented the award to Jim Acock.

Camille Parker presented the award to Sheldon Jones.

Cheri Stallman presented the award to Elaine Miller.

Karen Elliott presented the award to Helen Tinsley-Jones (pre-recorded).

Information Forum on ministerial search process: Dr. Melissa James, Unitarian Universalist Association/Pacific Western Region Congregational Primary Contact, described the process for calling a minister who would start here in August 2023. She said her key points were that we are not alone as a congregation, we will be supported, and UUCB has a lot to offer any prospective minister. Details can be found in handbooks on the UUA website. After questions and answers, Beth Pollard noted that any additional questions that come up can be sent to her, and the Board will be deciding what type of search to launch at its March 2 meeting.

Interim Minister Report: Rev. Dr. Michelle Collins announced:

- There will be a congregational process over the next several months to determine the future of the Freestone Retreat property.
- The COVID omicron variant has delayed reopening plans. The Opening Task Force continues to review data, including on covidactnow.org. Contra Costa County is still in a high-risk category for large group gatherings. She is hoping we can have in-person Sunday services by the end of March.
- UUA minister Rev. Jeanne Pupke, a national leader, died on Wednesday.

Reports:

- Patrick Cullinane and David Roberts introduced the **Stewardship** Committee's upcoming annual pledge drive, "Sustenance and Sanctuary in Challenging Times." The committee this year also includes Lynne Cahoon, Selene Fabiano, Don Klose, Ladie Malek, and Ariel Smith-Iyer. Pledging can now be done easily online through the UUCB website and new Breeze software.

- Lonnie Moseley, Melissa Rosales and Suzette Anderson-Duggan reported on the **Widening the Circle of Concern** Standing Committee. Several recommendations from the WTCC task force are already being implemented. The task force's report is available on the UUCB website under "About." The process is intended to involve the entire congregation. The Committee can be reached via widenthecircle@uucb.org.
- Tom Tripp gave the **Endowment Capital Projects Oversight** Committee report. A lot has been accomplished, and there is still \$190,806 available thanks to several large donations. Costs for various other potential capital projects are being studied.

Recognition of outgoing Board of Trustees members:

Kerry Simpson, Ariel Smith-Iyer, and Board Secretary Ann Harlow were honored with gifts and words of appreciation from fellow Board members.

Results of Board of Trustees Election: Helen Tinsley-Jones, convener of the Nominating Committee, announced that Beth Pollard, Michael Armstrong and Pier Sun Ho are each elected to a three-year term. Beth thanked and named the Nominating Committee members: Victoria Bowen, Lynne Cahoon, Dayana Claghorn, Robin Cooper, Selene Fabiano, Max Jenny, Sandy Portillo-Robins and Terry Stokes.

Board Installation, Benediction and Adjournment

Rev. Michelle Collins installed the 2022-23 Board with a chorus of "we wills" and gave the benediction, three quotes from Albert Schweitzer.

Beth Pollard adjourned the meeting at 2:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Harlow, Secretary