

Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley Congregational Meeting Sunday, February 11, 2024

Meeting Conducted In-Person and via Zoom Video Conference

Minutes – Draft

1. Call to Order

A quorum being present (55+ in-person; 16 on Zoom) the meeting was called to order by Helen Tinsley-Jones, co-president, at 12:54 p.m. Pier Sun Ho and Helen Tinsley-Jones did the chalice lighting and reading, Pier Sun Ho read the Widening the Circle of Concern statement, Helen Tinsley-Jones read the covenant, and Selene Fabiano read the land acknowledgement.

2. Consent Agenda:

Adoption of Agenda

Approval of March 26, 2023, May 7, 2023 and May 21, 2023 Congregational Meeting Minutes

A **Motion** (M -Jean Gleason; S -Jane Lundin) to accept the consent agenda passed.

3. Staff Introductions and Appreciation

Rev. Marcus, Tess O'Riva, and Heaven Walker introduced the UUCB staff. Of the twenty-two staff members, 11 were present in person.

4. Presentation of Flaming Chalice Awards for Extraordinary Service: - Led by Michael Armstrong

Flaming Chalice awards are given to people who have provided extraordinary service to our church community for at least 5 years, having been active in one or more principal activities in the church during that time. Below are the 4 awardees and the people who presented the award to them

Don Klose – Presented by Lenore Ralston

Ladie Malek- Presented by Kathryn Jay

Melissa Rosales – Presented by Karen Elliott

Anne Wardell – Presented by Sheila Tarbet

5. Committee Reports

Stewardship Committee – Lisa Maynard. Theme is “Wake now our vision.” The kick-off for this year’s stewardship campaign is on March 3rd. This year’s goal is approximately \$450,000. Lisa encouraged those who can increase their pledge to do so. All pledges are greatly appreciated.

Endowment Capital Projects Oversight Committee - Presented by Tom Tripp

Resolutions in 2018, 2019, and 2021 authorized \$758,000 for capital projects. \$725,000 has been withdrawn thus far. \$840,000 work has been done thus far; \$660,916 came from the endowment funds and \$180,000 was from very generous targeted member donations. Of the money withdrawn, there is a balance of \$64,000. Subject to corpus, \$33,000 is available to be withdrawn.

Freestone Oversight Committee (FOC) - Presented by Co-Chairs Beth Pollard and Tom Tripp

A summary of what led to the formation of the FOC and its purpose was provided. The first milestone from the resolution is to raise \$250,000 by 12/1/24. The task of meeting these milestones falls to the Freestone Committee. One possible fundraising strategy is to get a conservation easement for the Freestone property. A conservation easement is a one-time payment from the federal government for commitment by a landowner not to develop that land. The Freestone Committee and the FOC recommended, and Board approved, to have Parcels 1 & 2 listed for sale as one possible way of meeting the \$250,000 for the 12/1/24 milestone. The listing of these parcels is happening along a parallel track as the conservation easement application.

The Fundraising Guidelines created by the FOC were shared. Tom Tripp announced that a vacation rental permit has been approved by Sonoma County; this permit allows short-term rentals for up to 60 days. Transient Occupancy Tax (a 12% tax) is charged when fees are charged for Freestone use. The Freestone Committee has requested that Freestone be opened up for daytime use. The FOC is looking into this request.

6. Call for General Assembly Delegates - Victoria Bowen

2024 GA will be virtual only and will be held June 20-23, 2024. GA is the annual meeting of the UUA. Thousands get together to worship, debate, and vote on policies. Seminars, workshops, opportunities to meet UU's from all over. Article 2 Commission will be the big topic this year and a final decision related to Article 2 will be voted on at this year's GA. UUCB can send 7 delegates. Delegates must attend the business meetings and grapple with the issues. UUCB members can apply to be a delegate. Victoria will help with assembling the delegate group this year. If you're interested in applying to be a delegate, let Victoria know. More information about GA can be found on the UUA website: www.uua.org/ga

7. Committee on Ministry - Presented by Dave Roberts

The primary job of the Committee on Ministry (COM) is to support the minister, provide advice, be a sounding board, point out potholes, and assist the minister with specific tasks. They are currently focused on 1. Setting a framework for evaluating Rev. Marcus' ministry; and 2. Planning Rev. Marcus' installation. The current members of the COM are Sheldon Jones, Dave Roberts, Ladie Malek, Hilary Lorraine, Kerry Simpson, Suzette Anderson-Duggan, and Vakhid Shimanski.

8. Recognition of outgoing Board of Trustee members: Bill Brown, Carolyn James, Cordell Sloan, and Randall Hudson

Pier Sun Ho and Helen Tinsley-Jones shared appreciation for the outgoing board members.

9. Results of Board of Trustees Election - Michael DeWitt, Beth Jerde, and Helen Toy were elected to the Board of Trustees. Lisa Maynard agreed to be the Treasurer.

10. Installation of Board of Trustees, Benediction, and Adjournment

Reverend Marcus installed the new board and gave the benediction. The meeting was adjourned at 2:25PM.

Board Meeting

The member of the new board met briefly to elect officers: Pier Sun Ho and Helen Tinsley-Jones, co-presidents; Michael Armstrong, vice president; Selene Fabiano, secretary; Lisa Maynard, Treasurer.