

Mid-year Congregational Meeting
1/21/17

President Ivan Baumwell noted there being a quorum present, and the meeting was called to order at 12:22 pm.

1. Governance Task Force (GTF) presentation by Bob Delaney, Sue Broughton, Ed Rockman, and Joyce Kepner

Proposed Changes to the UUCNH Bylaws

Article V Board

Section 1: Number of Trustees

There shall be seven (7) ~~nine (9)~~ Trustees.

Section 2: Term of Trustees

Trustees shall be elected to three-year staggered terms, unless elected to fulfill an unexpired term, so that no more than three, nor less than two, voting members' terms expire at the same time. No Trustee shall serve more than 48 consecutive months. Following completion of a term, the member may not serve on the Board for at least twelve months.

Section 3: Vacancies on the Board

Any vacancy occurring on the Board between Annual Congregational Meetings shall be filled by Board appointment from nominations of the Leadership Development Team ~~Nominating Committee~~. The appointee shall serve until the next Annual Congregational Meeting, at which time the unexpired term shall be filled by election.

Section 4: Ex officio Members

The Minister, the Religious Educator, and the ~~Officers of Secretary and~~ Treasurer shall be ex officio, non-voting members of the Board, and shall not be counted in determining whether a quorum is present.

Section 9: Termination of Trustees

Any Trustee may be terminated by an affirmative vote of at least five (5) ~~6~~ Trustees. The terminated Trustee shall have the right to appeal for reinstatement at a Congregational Meeting.

Article VI Officers

Section 4: The Secretary

The Secretary shall be chosen by the Board from among the Trustees Members. The person so chosen shall be Secretary of UUCNH and of the Board, shall act as Secretary at all meetings of UUCNH and of the Board, and shall exercise, subject to the direction of the Board, all the functions usually pertaining to the office of Secretary of a corporation.

Ballot

Shall the changes to the UUCNH by-laws in Article V proposed in the document "Proposed changes to the UUCNH Bylaws" be approved to be effective for the church year July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018? Yes No

Shall the changes to the UUCNH by-laws in Article VI proposed in the document "Proposed changes to the UUCNH Bylaws" be approved to be effective for the church year July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018? Yes No

Discussion –

- Question as to why we aren't voting on the ministry council at this time along with the proposal to reduce the board size. We aren't ready to vote on ministry council at this time. If the board reduction is approved today, we will vote on the ministry council at the annual meeting. The board can do this without the change being in the bylaws as the CARS document can be updated instead. There is also no job description of the ministry council just yet.
- The GTF recommends attending information sessions that will be setup to discuss next steps with the ministry council and the restructure.
- Concern that as a growing congregation, our board should grow with it. After a year, there will be an evaluation of the board size.

Vote –

Motion to change the UUCNH by-laws in Article V proposed in the document "Proposed changes to the UUCNH Bylaws" be approved to be effective for the church year July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018.

Motion passed. 65 yes; 2 no; 1 abstain

Motion to change the UUCNH by-laws in Article VI proposed in the document "Proposed changes to the UUCNH Bylaws" be approved to be effective for the church year July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018?

Motion passed. 65 yes; 2 no; 1 abstain

2. Green Sanctuary presentation by Susie Wood

Discussion –

- We will need UUA approval to be a Green Sanctuary, similar to being a Welcoming Congregation.

- Are we stretching ourselves too thin by dealing with race, gender identity, and the environment? Should we do an initial assessment then bring it back to the board to vote on? That is one option, but then we would not have UUA approval which is the initial intent.
- It will be good to have a plan in place, like what to do with our used coffee grounds, do we compost or not? There will be less frustration and less confusion.
- This is living our values and being intentional about it.
- What value do you see in the accreditation versus doing this on our own? There will be more structure and support along the way. We may also be more likely to keep it going with UUA's support versus it potentially putting out if we try to do it on our own.
- Can we partner with another organization? Kent and Ginger Hill already went through the process, so I'm sure they will be willing to help us. Certification is valuable to be organized and focused.

Vote –

Motion to call the question, close the debate, and move forward with the Green Sanctuary project.

Motion passed. 63 yes; 2 no; 1 abstain

3. Presentation of the Proposed UUA Statement of Conscience (SOC) on Escalating Inequality by Stephen Fuegi

Discussion –

- Escalating inequality will be brought up at the General Assembly (GA), but was not brought up two Sundays in advance of the Congregational Meeting, so there will not be a vote. Discussion on how to have further conversations prior to the next GA.
- Would like to submit a draft statement of conscience which is due to the UUA by February 1. Please read the draft and send ideas or comments to Stephen Fuegi or Ivan Baumwell.

Closed the meeting at 2:00 p.m.