

**Congregational Meeting Minutes**  
**Community Unitarian Universalist Church**

Date: November 19, 2017

Location: CUUC, 2875 E. Parker Rd., Plano, Texas 75074

The following trustees and ex-officio members were present/absent (\* indicates absence)

**Executive Committee**

President: Zachary Hughes

Interim President: Sarah Reiling

Vice President-Programs: Sandra Farlow

Treasurer: Cindy Hadden\*

Secretary: Sheila Huckaby

**Trustees**

Communications Chair: Alyssa Church

Facilities Chair: Tom Brikowski\*

Personnel Chair: Jodie Zoeller

**Staff**

Rev. Patrick Price

Interim Director of Religious Education: Rev. Jennifer Innis

Membership Coordinator: Cindy Pilcher

**Opening Words**

Rev. Patrick Price provided opening words for the meeting.

**I. Call to Order and Chalice Lighting**

President Zachary Hughes called the meeting to order 12:30 p.m. Chalice lighting performed.

**II. Quorum Verification**

Secretary Sheila Huckaby confirmed congregational quorum present.

**III. Adoption Process**

President Zachary Hughes read the proposed adoption process for today's congregational meeting:

- No person may speak for more than 3 minutes on any one item
- No person may speak more than once on any item as long as anyone else wishes to speak
- After the initial presentation, debate time for each item shall be 15 minutes, the question will be called unless a motion is made to extend the debate another 10 minutes
- A majority vote will determine if debate will be extended

On motion made Seana Saxon and seconded by April Emmert – Maquire, the Congregation approved the adoption process.

#### **IV. Vote on Minutes from Annual Congregational Meeting held May 21, 2017**

On motion made Gene Verinder and seconded by Dave Dessert, the Congregation approved the Congregational Meeting Minutes of May 21, 2017.

#### **V. President's Report**

President Zachary Hughes outlined some of CUUC's accomplishments for 2017.

- Youth camp /partnered discount rate
- Interim Director of Religious Education Hire  
The Board of Trustees has approved the hiring of Rev. Jennifer Innis as CUUC's Interim Director of Religious Education.
- CUUC Website redesign  
CUUC has received a grant from North Texas Unitarian Universalist Congregations (NTUUC) to redesign our website. Planning work has begun.
- Strategic Planning Session (October)  
The Board of Trustees and Leadership agreed that we are comfortable with CUUC's current mission statement, vision statement and covenant.

##### *Background:*

*Our Mission. Community Unitarian Universalist Church is a congregation of welcoming, diverse, caring and committed people. We provide an atmosphere and framework for examining spiritual questions individually and communally; serve by enriching the spirit through words, music and fellowship; and educate all ages by promoting ethics, a sense of morality and the pursuit of personal and shared truths. We work together to make our world a more compassionate, just and respectful place.*

*Our Vision. We will become a dynamic and nurturing religious community that celebrates our human diversity, supports lifelong spiritual growth, and acts for compassion and justice in the larger community.*

*Our Covenant. Love is the spirit of this church and service is its law.*

*This is our great covenant: to dwell together in peace,  
To seek the truth in freedom, and to help one another.<sup>1</sup>*

- Young Adults Don't Feel Connected to Church  
In the group discussion, it was revealed that many young adults with children do not feel connected to church. Example statements: 1. because parents are teaching they cannot attend church services. 2. Some events, such as circle suppers, are not "kid friendly". Future discussions will try to address this ongoing challenge.

---

<sup>1</sup> CUUC Plano website

## Resignation

Zack explained to the Congregation that his entry into the Southern Methodist University Perkins School of Theology and the birth of his daughter, Adelaide Grace, have made it difficult to fulfil his duties as president of CUUC Board of Trustees. After giving the issue due consideration he submitted to the Congregation his resignation. Effective immediately.

## **Interim President**

Interim President Sarah Reiling led the remaining portion of the Congregational meeting.

## **VI. Overview of Land Sale**

Dick Hildenbrand presented to the Congregation an overview of the proposed land sale as outlined in his *Memorandum for Members of Community UU Church* (dated October 30, 2017).

*On July 24, 2017, we received an offer from Paul Westbrook (husband of Elena) to purchase the property east of the tree line at the north end of our property. His intent is to build three "green" homes on the subdivided property. Elena has recused herself from any part of these discussions. The offer we received is available on this web site so you can see how Paul arrived at the initial offering price.*

*Upon receipt of the offer, the Board appointed a team consisting of Joe Barlow, Bill Daffinee, Dick Hildenbrand and Nelah McComsey to review the offer and make any recommendations for a counter offer. All proposed changes were routed through the Finance Committee and Board for concurrence.*

*Finally, a pro bono legal review was conducted by a local attorney, Sam Johnson (not the current US House representative), with minor changes recommended by Sam and subsequently accepted by Paul.*

*The final contract is also available on this web site for your review. You may note that the church will retain a 5' concrete-paved passage to the subdivision so we may continue to offer parking for the Plano Balloon Festival.*

*If you are new to the congregation or don't recall the reason for considering this land sale, it was a recommendation made by a team appointed at congregational meeting after discussion on how to pay back our Investment Fund after borrowing a significant amount of money to apply for major repairs to the church in 2015 – 2017. We have no planned future use of this property.*

*Sale of the land per this contract is subject to congregational approval, which will be presented as a motion at our November 19<sup>th</sup> congregational meeting:*

*Move: that the contract and addenda, as outlined in enclosed documents, for the land sale in the amount of \$166,200.00 be approved.*

*Respectfully submitted,  
Dick Hildenbrand*

## Discussion

- A question about the tree line was raised. Joe Barlow stated that a land survey would determine which trees remain on our property.
- Amy Dessert asked for clarification of how much the lots will sell for individually. Dick answered that 2 lots are \$85,000.00 each, and 1 at \$102,000.00.
- Dave Dessert asked, “Was Paul Westbrook’s bid the only one received?” Dick answered there were no other bids received.
- Elena explained that comps are difficult to obtain for isolated new homes. She explained additional history of how the land deal came about. She will abstain from land sale vote.
- Beverly Fleming inquired on how much land is involved in the sale. Dick referred her to the detailed documents pertaining to the sale.
- Jen Mason inquired about zoning. Dick stated that Paul is working on it.

John Crowley moved to stop further discussion and bring the sale to a vote. Congregation agreed unanimously. Elena Westbrook abstaining.

On motion made by the committee, the Congregation approved the contract and addenda, as outlined in the enclosed documents, for the land sale for \$166,200.00.

### **VIII. Financial Report**

Dick Hildenbrand gave Financial Report in the absence of Treasurer Cindy Hadden.

Congregation received a detailed Congregational Meeting Finance Summary, dated November 19, 2017. Dick stated the following:

- We are ahead of budget
- Expenses are in line
- We have good cash flow
- However, Finance is predicting we will have a deficit for the year of \$12,000.00
- The Balloon Festival did better than average
- The Service Auction was \$3,000.00 short of budget
- The money from the land sale will be used to:
  - Repay Dedicated Funds (\$26,500.00); Repay Unrestricted Fund (\$102,000.00) Pay off internal HVAC loan (\$37,000.00); Pay off old internal LOC loan (\$700.00); Total \$166,200.00.

### Inheritance Gift

Dick discussed the John Reed inheritance gift of \$160,000.00. The gift is legitimate, but CUUC is still trying to identify John Reed. \$88.6K will go into the endowment fund. \$16K for capital fund for unexpected repairs. \$54.8K for improvements to the church.

### **IX. Program Team Report**

Sandra Farlow presented the Program Team Report, which included the following:

- Program Board includes Sandra Farlow, Chair; Catherine “Katy” Eubanks, Fellowship; Celeste Kennedy, Adult Enrichment; Janice Hildebrand, Social Action; Kimberly Schramm, Membership; and Brennan Hadden, Religious Education.
- In the coming weeks, Membership Coordinator Cindy Pilcher will conduct a class along the lines of “The 3 Minute Elevator Speech” to help members explain UUA concepts in a short response.
- God’s Pantry delivered 300 Thanksgiving Baskets to people in Plano.
- The 2017 Toy Drive is underway.
- The Community Garden harvested 2,800 pounds of produce this year.

## **X. Religious Education Report**

Interim Director of Religious Education Rev. Jennifer Innis presented the highlights of her report to the congregation.

- She thanked the Youth Group for organizing the CUUC lunch today. In addition, the making of many pies.
- She thanked the Education Board for their hard work during the interim period with no DRE director.
- She discussed the fact that former DRE Kathy Smith left a focused program that requires a strong Director of Religious Education.
- DRE will have new classes in the coming year. The need is great to expand the pool of educational teachers.

## **XI. Facilities**

Sandra Farlow presented the Facilities Report in the absence of Facilities Chair Tom Brikowski. The \$55,000.00 of windfall monies allotted to facilities maybe applied to the following projects that are under consideration:

- New CUUC electronic monument/entrance sign
- New carpet in foyer and sanctuary
- New sanctuary chairs

However, the Facilities Committee invites members of the Congregation to submit additional ideas. It is the intent of the committee that the Congregation will decide on the projects and their prioritization.

In relation to land sale. Tara Hands inquired if new concrete walkway from parking to street will include car access as well walking. The answer was the walkway is pedestrian only.

## **XII. Extinguished Chalice**

Sarah Reiling extinguished the chalice.

## **Benediction**

Benediction by Rev. Patrick Price

## **Meeting Adjournment**

On motion made by Rob Hight and seconded by Seana Saxon the Congregation agreed to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sheila Huckaby, Board Secretary