



A MEMBER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONS
25801 Obrero Drive, Mission Viejo, CA 92691 Phone 949-581-0245 Fax 949-581-0243

June 14, 2009
Tapestry Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes

Welcome to the 2009 Tapestry Annual Meeting. While people are taking their seats, I'd like to thank ? for providing childcare. I'd also like to thank the Suzi Spangenberg for mailing the agenda and copying meeting materials, and Dave Salahi for getting information on-line so quickly.

From the posted agenda for reference:

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings (June 2008; May 2009)
4. Report of the Standing & Ad Hoc Committees
5. Report of the Minister
6. Report of the President
7. Report of the Treasurer
8. Consideration and adoption of new budget
9. Old Business (none)
10. New Business
 - a. Proposed bylaw change in Officer Terms for President and Vice President, Operations
11. Nominating Committee's Report
12. Election of Trustees and Nominating Committee
13. Adjourn

Call to Order

Good afternoon. I call the Annual Meeting to order at 12:40 pm. Please take your seats.

Our membership stands at 149 members, according to the bylaws we need 25 percent of the membership present to constitute a quorum to conduct business, which is 38 members. You are a member if you have signed the book and made a pledge (also called an annual gift). Please raise your hand if you are a member so we can take a count.

Will the Secretary please record that 45 members are present? For the record for bylaws changes, 2/3s of that number is 30.

We conduct these meetings according to Robert's Rules of Order, or as close as we can come to it.

I'm going to take a moment to refresh everyone's memory about how this goes:

Minister: Rev. Mitra Rahnema (interim)
Director of Religious Exploration: Katelynn Riva **Office Administrator:** Suzi Spangenberg
Minister Emeritus: Rev. Robert Jordan Ross
President: Tara Sayre **VP Finance:** Julia Rampone **VP Operations:** Connie Pursell
Treasurer: Carol Wheeler **Secretary:** Laura Jackson **Trustees:** Richard Jagielko, Michael Boys, Mark Fox

First, we need to stick to the agenda that was distributed. Any new issues or items introduced will need to be taken outside the meeting or deferred to the next congregational meeting because they were not published in the agenda that was distributed to the membership.

I will introduce an agenda item, with a very brief explanation. For items that need a vote, I will end with a request for a motion. Someone will make a motion. Then without any discussion, someone else must second the motion to put the topic into discussion. Then I'll ask for any discussion. Remember, discussion is not mandatory. We can go right to a vote. If you do want to speak, please raise your hand. I will call on speakers by saying, "the floor recognizes _____". Please wait for the mike so that everyone can hear you.

Discussion needs to **focus specifically on the pros and cons** of a particular motion. When you begin speaking, also please repeat your name so that the Secretary can record it, and state whether you are speaking in favor or opposed to the motion. Only one motion can be on the floor at a time. If someone wants to amend a motion, discussion shifts to the merits of the amendment to the motion, which must be voted on before we go back to the original motion.

When there is no more discussion or there is consensus to stop discussion, I will call for a vote. Only members can vote. I'll say, all in favor, and you say aye, all opposed, and you say nay, any abstentions? If it is too close to tell, we'll do a hand count. For most of the business we conduct, only a simple majority is required. However, a bylaw change requires approval of 2/3 of the members present. We will take a count for those votes.

Approval of Agenda

I will consider a motion to approve the agenda that was posted on the Tapestry web page and published in the packet that was distributed.

MOTION: I move to accept the Annual Meeting agenda as distributed and posted.

Jeff Gothard moved
Eric Daniels 2nd

Discussion - none

Aye - all

Nay – none

MSP

Approval of the Minutes of the June 2008 Annual Meeting and the May 2009 Special Congregational Meeting

In the June annual 2008 meeting, we recognized the contributions of all who made Tapestry what it is; we recognized and said 'goodbye' to Rev. John and Sarah Gibb Millspaugh; we changed our bylaws to meet Officially Welcoming Congregation requirements; we covenanted to be a Green Sanctuary; and we voted to continue discussions with OCUUC. In keeping with our Green Sanctuary goals, the minutes are posted online and have been made available by request via hard copy for anyone who wanted hard copies.

Can I have a motion to accept the minutes of the June 2008 Annual Meeting?

MOTION: I move that we accept the minutes of the June 2008 Annual Meeting as written.

Lynn Cowan moved
Richard Jagielko 2nd

Discussion - none

Aye - all

Nay - none

MSP

The May 2009 Special Congregational Meeting is probably still fresh in your mind. We voted to continue toward merging with Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church, but also needing to focus on our own immediate-term needs financially.

Can I have a motion to accept the minutes of the May 2009 Special Congregational Meeting?

MOTION: I move that we accept the minutes of the May 2009 Special Congregational Meeting as written and distributed.

Moved by Mark Fox
Betty Elliott 2nd

Discussion – some information in the minutes about the number of votes that took place seems to be discrepant. Since no specific details of an amendment to the minutes have been provided, no change was made to the motion at this time. If more details come to light in future, an amendment can be requested at that time.

Aye - all

Nay – 1

MSP

Report of the Standing and Ad Hoc Committees

The report of the standing and ad hoc committees was prepared by each committee chair and distributed on the web. If you haven't had a chance to review the report, please do. It is an excellent summary of the congregation's many accomplishments this year. Connie Pursell, our VP Operations, would like to take a moment to highlight a couple of key points.

Ways and means was commended for continuing to meet or exceed their fund raising targets in new and creative ways. Thanks and well done.

The Caring committee has been very busy with its critical role in our community and their work is much appreciated by all.

Social action is also commended for a number of activities that have been very successful and bringing Tapestry into the forefront of Orange county's efforts towards social change. Jan and team are commended for Welcoming Congregation, Green Sanctuary both going strong and other activities such as joining with OCCCO.

Worship committee has continued to do an excellent job to serve the needs of Tapestry in many ways. Susan and team get our thanks for great job this year

Report of the Minister

I'd like to invite Rev. Mitra Rahnema forward to make her annual report, which is also posted online.

Again, much praise is due to Jan's team for their Justice work on Green and Welcoming activities and participation with OCCCO and the obtaining the UUA grant for more social justice activities in our community.

Membership has been very welcoming and that continues as a strong point of this congregation.

Recognized that changes in worship have been introduced by Rev Mitra this year who appreciated how they were respected and the loving reception to changes she has received.

Noted that the strong caring has deepened this year with the dedication of the caring committee members.

Noted that RE has also strengthened this year and is ready to take off successfully in the Fall.

Staff transitions of note: Mary Halunka left her position as Tapestry Office Admin after serving us very well and transitioned her duties to Suzi Spangenberg, DRE hours reduced to allow her to take on duties of DRE at OCUUC also.

See further details online.

Report of the President

This has been my 4th year in a Board Leadership role. If looking back at the past year is amazing, then the last 4 is absolutely phenomenal!!

I'm not going to focus on the last 4 years, though – we'd be here all day! Our last year has been "Contingency Rich", as Pamela Edwards so aptly put it last month. But more than that, it's been beautiful in spite of the craziness!

In ministry, we welcomed a new interim minister who has led us to explore our strengths, values, goals, and worship services. We also learned we'd need to say goodbye to Reverend Mitra sooner than we wanted to, and that we would get to welcome Rev. Tom Owen-Towle as a new consulting minister coming in August. Our Caring Committee really picked up steam this year, providing cards, support, meals, and countless other services to members who have experienced a tremendous range of challenges this year.

Socially, we've had two fantastic service auctions with numerous fun, relaxing, mentally-challenging, tasty, artistic, etc. activities for members and friends to participate in. The book club, the traveler's club, the adult forums, bridge club, women's wisdom circle, and others have continued their strong service and joy to this community. They provide us with places to let go, to gear up, to laugh, and to build the friendships and relationships that make this spiritual community so happy and strong.

But wait, there's more! If you call – oh, make that “listen” - in the next 3 minutes, you'll hear about learning and service opportunities! Our children have been taught about many religions' views of God. Many have participated in age-appropriate sex and relationship education in OWL classes. Many more have been to Camp deBenneville Pines, either with Tapestry & OCUUC, or in an Elementary, Jr. High or Sr. High camp session. They've participated in giving back to those in need through gleaning at 2nd Harvest's farm, or making blankets for Project Linus, or making thank-you gifts for the numerous volunteers who led their Religious Exploration classes every week. Our adults, too, had learning and service opportunities. We had opportunities to do everything from covenant groups, to classes dealing with grief and articulating our UU faith, to a simplicity circle. In service to our community, we strengthened our partnership with OCCCO and CREER, doing more to bring nature to low-income youth who otherwise might not have the exposure. Many worked tirelessly to defeat Prop 8, and work now to overturn it. Others worked to help the homeless, or those affected by war, or marched in the Orange County AIDS walk.

And if that weren't energetic and inspired enough, we continued to try to substantially increase the voice of liberal spirituality in Orange County via a merger. Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church voted overwhelmingly in November to merge with us. Many members from both congregations worked very hard to bring the merger to fruition, including finding a building, beginning to build a joint vision, and organizing joint committees. While we've not merged, and we're not sure when it may actually happen, the vision of a strong, visible, joyful liberal spiritual presence remains strong in both communities.

All of this has occurred in a year that has seen the worst economic environment that most people have ever seen.

Think about that for a moment. ALL we have achieved together, in love, respect and support, overcoming some enormous obstacles.

Thank YOU!

At this point, I want to recognize one particular person for her amazing work at Tapestry and beyond and name the recipient of the President's Award. There are some others who deserve special mention for their commitment and results before I announce the President's Award, though.

- Carol Semelroth, Jay Keithan, Terry Parker and Christine Krueger for their amazing work on the Nominating Committee. It has been a long time since our committees have been so well staffed, and our Board slate actually complete!!
- Laura Jackson for nearly single-handedly taking on the task of following up with members for their FY 09-10 pledges. It is a critical, difficult, and thankless job that she has done diligently and with a smile on her face in spite of dozens of unreturned phone calls.
- Jim Semelroth, Richard Jagielko, Dave Kinnear, Christine Kruger, Julia Rampone, Keith Tuominen, Lynn Cowan, Jon Eckhardt, and Mark Fox for their ongoing commitment to the Merger Task Force. And of course, all the committee chairs and committees that worked with OCUUC committees to find common ground.
- Carole Shannon, Mark Fox and Carol Semelroth for their efforts to find our new Office Administrator, Suzi Spangenberg.
- Charlotte Clarke, Jay Keithahn, Rosy Pacilli, Retha Roberts, Susan Jagielko, and Karen Nichols for serving on the Transitions Team for Rev. Mitra throughout this year.
- And my apologies if I missed someone on one of these committees. It is only a reflection of my scattered nature, and not your contribution!

As those of us who search through the congregation's directory seeking out candidates for the many leadership roles that open during the year know all too well, many members and friends serve Tapestry in multiple roles. I want to acknowledge the following groups, whose efforts contribute THOUSANDS of hours / year...Please stand as you find yourself fitting into a category I name.

- the teams who clean the facility each week
- the office volunteers who continue to serve as our administrative needs continue to grow
- the members who served as a Worship Associate, gave a sermon, ran the sound, ushered, or contributed their words or talents to our worship services
- the crew who assembles and mails the newsletter each month
- everyone who serves (or has served) as a committee chair, on a committee or on a task force
- everyone who participated in a Covenant Group
- everyone who has taught in CRE or helped on a Social Action field trip

- everyone who runs one of our social groups that are so important in building our community
- those who make or exceed the target for a fair share financial gift each year so we can continue and grow our congregation's good works
- everyone who paid their annual gift on time
- everyone who contributed their musical abilities to a service or event
- everyone who made food for or brought food to the service, one of our events, or for a member who was in need or who coordinates their efforts
- every person brave who offered or purchased a service auction item
- everyone who bought scrip to make a percentage of the money you'd spend anyway come back to the congregation
- every new member whose potential contributions in time, talent, and commitment are yet to come

President's Award

While the President can officially recognize only one person or group each year, please know that **every** contribution of time and talent is greatly appreciated and encouraged for the greater good of Tapestry and our wider world.

This year the President's Award goes to an individual who has worked for several years here at Tapestry building up a program that has become integral to our larger vision and to our ability to create relationships amongst ourselves as well as in the wider world. Jan Meslin!

Jan has served as our Social Justice Chair for several years. She helped to organize the justice group from 'almost scratch'. She built structure, streamlined communication, and encourages clear goal setting. Under her leadership, Tapestry became an Official Welcoming Congregation AND a Green Sanctuary within the last year.

She also led Tapestry to becoming a member of OCCCO (Orange County Congregations Community Organization). This is a faith based community organizing group that works to bring Orange County faith communities and communities in need together to achieve mutually beneficial goals. For Tapestry, we've worked with CREER to get low-income youth out into nature, to provide tutoring opportunities, and to provide English/Spanish learning opportunities for both English-speaking and

Spanish-speaking adults. She recently spearheaded getting a matching grant from the UUA for \$2500 to support our membership with OCCCCO.

Jan is personally committed to a variety of justice issues including health care reform (especially for children), fair housing, and immigrants' rights. She's been to Washington, D.C. to meet with legislators and thought-leaders in these areas, pushing to affect real and lasting change.

As Rev. Mitra says, "Jan brings a justice element to the congregation that the whole congregation is proud of. But she is also deeply committed to a Unitarian Universalist voice in Orange County. She is chair of the UU Service Committee's local chapter. She carries an integrity, calmness, and openness in all she does. She is clear, respectful, and focused. She has an enthusiasm for the power of the congregation as well as connections to denominational activities. She continually offers opportunities for further engagement for each member and friend."

She is going to General Assembly in a week to represent Tapestry and to continue to grow in her own spirit, faith, and action. She is an inspiration to me personally, and to many many members of our community. Please join me in recognizing Jan for all she does for Tapestry, for Unitarian Universalism, and for the wider world.

Report of the Treasurer

Will Carol Wheeler please come forward to make the Treasurer's report?

Summary - Less pledges received than forecasted as of end April

Less income but also less expense which is good. Results in \$15,000 total shortfall. At this time but this does not include May -June

People are welcome to donate items to Tapestry that we would otherwise purchase and use in Operating budget. People are invited to ask the congregation to donate these items that we have been purchasing. A comment was made that we wish people would deliver on what they pledged.

Please consider electronic giving if you need to have this done for you in order to stay current on your pledge.

Scrip needs to sell to get the income. Please buy scrip. We will avoid buying any more scrip that does not sell quickly so as to reduce our inventory which is \$14,000 right now.

Next on the agenda is the consideration and adoption of the budget for 2009-2010 fiscal year.

Consideration and adoption of the new Budget

I'd like to thank Julia Rampone for her many hours of work on the proposed budget, and the members of the Board for their countless hours trying to balance Tapestry's income and expenses, with Tapestry's vision & needs.

Will Julia please come forward to present the proposed Budget?

Summary: Assumptions of membership and pledge growth last year were too high
How we managed so well was to spend less and reduce our contributions to PSWD and UUA (on a one time basis!) to avoid using reserves. Reduced rent cost has helped but is not enough.
Still need \$7K more pledges for next year at least. This is a very conservative budget. Expenses are down.
We have saved money on staff costs without losing status as fair compensation.
Will need to pull \$5K from reserves based on current budget in the next fiscal year.

No assumptions about pledge gain or loss are included due to our experience and impression that it is not realistic at this time. We are on 30 days notice at this location.

Tara presented a summary of our options for locations and saving money.

5 options were presented and we discussed them.

Discussion by the congregation:

Not sure about whether landlord would agree with all options

Details of each option are still to be worked out or confirmed

What do we need as far as square footage?

We are now at about 8000. Bake property is about 5000 so 6500 would feel about right

What is church in a box? Like what SDA does here, may not have storage there.

Can we have our own services at OCUUC? Yes

Other possible spaces may be available.

CUP can be obtained from the previous tenant if available.

Landlord was ok with 30 and now it is 60 day notice but not at reduced enough rent

Does site committee have authority to select somewhere? Only committee and board need to approve it so we don't have to have a meeting to decide

\$5000 is realistic for the rent but there will be other expenses of moving.

How much have we used the reserves in the last couple of years? Unrestricted reserves – we have dipped in occasionally but only once recently last year.

Risk of losing SDA is in there in any case.

Being open minded on options for properties – just need to be the right fit for our budget and with a sanctuary

Lynn Cowan will accept emails with ideas on options.

Always have to assume something – including SDA continuing as they have in the past

Prefer to not go dark in August – please remove from option 3.

Include SDA in search if possible as their contribution to our rent is important

A lot to take on if we have to look for worship space temporary as well as a longer term location needs to be different group of people

Consider using UCC off Crown valley

Can we do options 1 and 5 combined, explore option 4 and otherwise do something else.

Still needs to be discussed further – we need to be open to possible options

Consider these as 2 options – 1) spend some of our reserves and stay put for now if necessary for continuity or 2) do something else that may cost a little less which could be more disruptive. It can be valuable to minimize disruption. Prefer to vote on the 2 principles rather than on the various options. Congregation agreed with this proposal for straw poll.

Straw poll based on 2 options above.

Stay where we are until we find the right rental property but move on that as soon as possible (option1)

MOTION: I move that we approve the 2009-2010 budget as submitted.

Moved by Scott Ramirez

2nd by Eric Daniels

Discussion - none

Aye - all

Nay – none

MSP

8. Old Business

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

We have no old business, so we will move on to new business.

New Business

There are two items of New Business for consideration, both amendments to our Bylaws, which require 2/3 vote of the congregation.

First, we would like to modify the term structure for President and Vice President of Operations. As it is currently structured, VP Operations and President each serve 2 year terms, and the Ops role is frequently used as a 'training ground' for President. When followed as laid out by the current bylaws, such a person serves 4 years in highly demanding & time consuming roles. Our goal is to increase our ability to recruit talented individuals to these roles, to provide more flexibility in the timing of movement into and out of these roles, and to reduce leadership burnout.

The proposed changes are to sections A and D of "Article 6, Section 3 – Election & Term of Office".

First, we propose changing section A from "No Trustee or Officer shall serve more than 2 consecutive terms for the same office to **"No Trustee or Officer shall serve more than four (4) consecutive years for the same Office."**

Second, we propose changing section D to read **"The President's and Vice President of Operations' terms are one (1) year terms.** All other Board Members' terms are to be staggered two (2) year terms. All elected Board Members take office on July 1 following election at the Annual General Membership Meeting. The Vice President of Finance, and two (2) Trustees are elected in odd numbered years. The Treasurer, Secretary, and one (1) Trustee are elected in even numbered years."

These two amendments make it possible for someone to serve 2 years as Vice President of Operations and 2 years as President, as they currently do. BUT, it also makes it possible for someone to serve one year as VP Ops, and then one or two years as President; or two years as VP Finance and one year as President, etc. It increases our flexibility to build and sustain our leadership.

Do I have a motion?

MOTION: I move that we approve Bylaw Amendments to Article 6, Section 3 as presented.

Moved – Allan Hull
2nd – Lynn Cowan

Discussion

Aye - all
Nay – none
MSP

The other bylaw change we would like to make is both in support of our Green Sanctuary efforts and in recognition of the growing electronic nature of communication. We would like to make email an acceptable form of notification of annual and special congregational meetings. Please remember that the bylaw is intended to lay out the policy, not the implementation. Members will have the choice whether to receive notification electronically or on paper.

The change is to Article 5, Section 4, and reads as follows: “Written Notice of all voting Membership Meetings, Annual or Special, shall be mailed to each Member entitled to vote by sending a copy of the Notice ***either electronically or*** through the United States Mail, postage prepaid, to the Member’s ***email or physical*** address last appearing on the Congregation Membership Listing.”

Do I have a motion?

MOTION: I move that we approve Bylaw Amendments to Article 5, Section 4 as presented.

Moved Susan Dearing
2nd Dick Huddleston

Discussion - none

Aye - all

Nay - none

MSP

Now we will move to the report of the Nominating Committee.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Almost done folks. We need to approve the new slate of Board of Trustees.

The Nominating Committee has proposed the following slate of trustees:

- **President – Connie Pursell** (2009 - 2010)
- **Vice President of Operations – Mark Fox** (2009 - 2010)
- **Vice President of Finance – Bev Huff** (2009 – 2011)
- **Treasurer - Jacqueline Jenkins** (2009 – 2012) (completing 08-10 term, and subsequent term)
- **Secretary - Laura Jackson** (2008 – 2010)
- **Trustee - Julia Rampone** (serving 1 year of 2 year term 2008 - 2010)
- **Trustee - Keith Tuominen** (2009 – 2011)
- **Trustee - Scott Ramirez** (2009 – 2011)

MOTION: I move to approve the slate of Trustees as submitted.

Moved Sheryl Hagen

2nd Jeff Gothard

Discussion

Aye _____ all _____

Nay _____ none _____

Finally, we need to approve the new Nominating Committee Members. Proposed members are:

- **Christine Krueger**, Chair (1 year) 08-10
- **Terry Parker** (2 years) 09-11
- **Jay Keithahn** (1 year) 08-10
- **Marcia Meyer** (2 years) 09-11

MOTION: I move to approve the members of the Nominating Committee as submitted.

Moved Linda Yeargin
2nd Rosi Pacilli

Discussion - none

Aye _____ all _____

Nay _____ none _____

MSP

Adjournment

At this point, I would like to thank you all for everything you do for this community, for your patience and support of me and this Board over the past years. It has been an honor to serve Tapestry as its President. I am looking forward seeing to what the community will continue to do in the coming years. Namaste.

Do I have a motion to adjourn?

MOTION: I move that we adjourn the meeting

Moved Dick Huddleston
Eric Daniels 2nd

The meeting was adjourned at _approximately 2pm_____.

Summary of proposed MOTIONS

#1 MOTION: I move to accept the Annual Meeting agenda as distributed and posted.

#2 MOTION: I move that we accept the minutes of the June 2009 Annual Meeting as written.

#3 MOTION: I move that we accept the minutes of the May 2009 Special Congregational Meeting as written and distributed.

#4 MOTION: I move that we approve the 2009-2010 budget as submitted.

#5 MOTION – I move that we approve Bylaw Amendments to Article 6, Section 3 as presented.

#6 MOTION: I move that we approve Bylaw Amendments to Article 5, Section 4 as presented.

#7 MOTION: I move to approve the slate of Trustees as submitted.

#8 MOTION: I move to approve the members of the Nominating Committee as submitted.

#9 MOTION: I move that we adjourn the meeting