



June 22, 2008
Tapestry Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes

I am really glad to see you here. We are going to be talking about some exciting possibilities today, and your committed involvement is the most important thing to ensure we move the way YOU want to.

Welcome to the 2008 Tapestry Annual Meeting. While people are taking their seats, I'd like to thank Vicki Schmid and Erica Meslin for providing childcare. I'd also like to thank the Mary Halunka for copying meeting materials, and Dave Salahi for getting them 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 (April 2008)
4. Report of the Standing and Ad Hoc Committees
5. Report of the Minister
6. Report of the President
7. Report of the Treasurer
8. Consideration and adoption of the FY 2008-2009 Budget
9. Old Business
 - a. Official Welcoming Congregation
 - b. Green Sanctuary
 - c. Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church next steps
10. New Business (none)
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 11:40 am. Please take your seats.

Our membership stands at **166** members, according to the bylaws we need 25 percent of the membership present to constitute a quorum to conduct business, which is **42** members. You are a

Minister: Rev. John Gibb Millspaugh
Director of Religious Exploration: Katelynn Hassler **Office Administrator:** Mary Halunka
Affiliated Community Minister: Rev. Sarah Gibb Millspaugh **Minister Emeritus:** Rev. Robert Jordan Ross
President: Tara Sayre **VP Finance:** Julia Rampone **VP Operations:** Connie Pursell
Treasurer: Penny Kinnear **Secretary:** Laura Jackson **Trustees:** Richard Jagielko, Mark Fox, Michael Boys

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 ___ 64 _____ members are present. For the record for bylaws changes, 2/3s of that number is _42_____.

We conduct these meetings according to Robert's Rules of Order, or as close as we can come to it. Jim Semelroth has agreed to be our Parliamentarian if we get have questions about how to proceed. I'm going to take a moment to refresh everyone's memory about how this goes:

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. 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 say, 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.

When you begin speaking, also please repeat your name so that the Secretary can record it. Discussion needs to focus specifically on the pros and cons of a particular 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'll 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.

Susan Jagielko moved
Sal Nawaz seconded

Discussion - none

Aye - all

Nay

MSP

Approval of the Minutes of the January 2008 and April 2008 Special Congregational Meetings

The January 2008 meeting was the meeting where we committed to deeply exploring a merger with Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church.

MOTION: I move that we accept the minutes of the January 2008 Special Congregational Meeting as written.

Terry Black moved
Julia Rampone seconded

Discussion - none

Aye - all

Nay

MSP

The April 2008 meeting was the meeting where voted to proceed with the merger with Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church.

MOTION: I move that we accept the minutes of the April 2008 Special Congregational Meeting as written and distributed.

- moved by Karolyn McCarter
- seconded by Gary Livesey

Discussion - none

Aye - all

Nay

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 and in the lobby. 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.

Report of the Minister

I'd like to invite Rev. John Gibb Millspaugh forward to make his annual report.

John made his report.

I would also like to encourage you to read the annual report of our Affiliated Community Minister, the Rev. Sarah Gibb Millspaugh, as posted on the Tapestry Website. She has offered 3 sermons at Tapestry this year, as well as leading 2 adult RE classes. Furthermore, a full 5 of her curricula that she has developed for her "fulltime job" with the UUA have been published by for use in congregations throughout the world.

Report of the President

When I took the role of President last year, I knew it was going to be a big year – after all, we would be talking about, and maybe merging with, OCUUC. But I had no idea what a truly big year it would actually be.

First, in spite of an extraordinarily tight budget (nearly 90% to staffing and building expenses), we managed to do some amazing things to live out our UU values. We have promoted the inherent worth & dignity of every person through the efforts of the Official Welcoming Congregation Task Force, activities to help stop the genocide in Darfur, support of local needy families, participating in a local Habitat for Humanity build, handing out roses on the first day that gay & lesbian couples could legally be married in California, and many many more. We have showed respect for the interdependent web of life through the Green Sanctuary efforts, including taking steps to reduce our energy usage, encourage responsible disposal of hazardous waste, and the use of reusable plates & silverware for our larger events. We have supported the free and responsible search for truth and meaning through dozens of Adult Forums, Social Action films, book clubs, Sunday sermons (both Rev. John's and Sarah's, as well as others) and covenant groups.

Then, on top of such great work, and in spite of the difficult challenge raised by OCUUC's razor margin vote, I want you to celebrate everything we achieved – and can yet achieve – in the discussions with Orange Coast UUC. Although the April vote did not go as we had hoped, I think it's important to remember that a year ago, we voted SIMPLY to discuss ways to collaborate on a building search. Less than 6 months later, we had an outstanding Task Force in place who had developed profiles of both congregations and determined key areas of similarity and difference, and that a merger would be beneficial for both communities. Just a couple of months after that, we had financials, solid ideas in terms of building locations, numerous cottage meetings to assess congregational buy-in. Tapestry and nearly 80% of OCUUC was ready to move forward with a merger. Today, we know that OCUUC wants our discussions to continue, and we have the opportunity to confirm or change that direction.

Finally, as if that wasn't accomplishment enough, we have demonstrated a beautiful degree of understanding, acceptance of one another, and coming together in difficult times with the pending departures of our beloved minister and affiliated community minister, Revs John and Sarah Gibb Millsbaugh. This news was hard for many, and raised emotions from deep sadness to anger to

celebration. And sometimes all at once in the same person! There have been multiple ways the congregation has been able to process, from cottage-style meetings in the week after the announcement, to informal discussions, to individual reflection, to this afternoon's celebration. The Board worked diligently and tirelessly to find and employ an interim minister that will serve our congregation and its vision, as well as the legacy that Rev. John is leaving us. Through it all, some people have felt like "wow! I'm excited about the next phase", while others are still mourning. In spite of these differing phases, on the whole, people have been respectful of each other's own process and emotions. Your support of one another and the congregation as a whole reminds me of how I have been humbled and honored to serve as one of your lay leaders in this time of transition.

Indeed, our accomplishments and challenges this year were many and varied, but there was a clear standout for 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.

- Sheila Raymond and Lauren Schmid, along with the OWC Task Force for their efforts to create dialog and understanding around gender and sexual orientation equality, and to make Tapestry an Official Welcoming Congregation.
- Bev Huff and the Green Sanctuary team for their efforts to make Tapestry a Green Sanctuary.
- Jan Meslin and the entire Social Action task force for enabling so many to leverage their passions about fairness, the environment, health & hunger, etc.
- Laura Mazzulo, Melanie McCullough and the new Ways & Means committee, who in spite of having largely new membership achieved their income goals for the year.

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 I estimate contribute well over 5,500 hours / year...

- the teams who clean the facility each week
- the office volunteers who continue to serve as our administrative needs continue to grow
- the visiting stewards who took on the necessary but formidable task of asking the rest of us for our annual financial contributions.

- 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 the CRE program 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 a group that had the exciting, if daunting, task of working with another congregation to determine if we could do more as a combined community than we can individually – the Exploratory Task Force. Jim Semelroth chaired the team that consisted of: Richard Jagielko, Dave Kinnear, Christine Kruger, Julia Rampone, and Keith Tuominen-Lenny. They worked tirelessly over many months to gather and share information, to strategize, to compromise, to enable change, and to support a path to the growth this congregation has consistently supported over the years. Though nearly 80% of Orange Coast was ready to move

ahead in April, and though that was not quite high-enough buy-in at the time, there is still great hope and much to be celebrated. OCUUC unanimously voted to continue talks with us last week, and the vast majority of their members still want to pursue merger. I remain hopeful about the possibilities, looking toward the future. Thank you very much, each and every one of you.

Report of the Treasurer

Will Penny Kinnear please come forward to make the Treasurer's report?

Penny made her report – directing the congregation to the printed materials available.

No questions.

Next on the agenda is the:

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. Whether in email or in extended board meetings, everyone worked diligently through the pros and cons of a variety of suggestions, issues, etc.

Will Julia Rampone please come forward to present the proposed Budget?

Julia presented budget.

MOTION: I move that we approve the 2008-2009 budget as submitted.

Moved: Mark Fox

Seconded: Dave Kinnear

Discussion:

Susan Rao – too optimistic and idealistic, other options like reducing Katelyn's hours should be explored, parents should help pay for RECY to fund it, should be based on their use of the program.

Julia Rampone – responded that the Board did consider many options for balancing the budget.

Susan Dearing – not fair to ask parents specifically for more pledges

David Kinnear – not likely to get more money from families this way as they will reduce their pledge if they are also paying an RE supplement

Julia Rampone – agreed.

Keith T--L - we should not move backwards, so do not cut back on DRE hours as it would send the wrong message to parents. Would prefer less space to fewer people on staff

Jay K – will add a month to his pledge to support the budget that has been proposed rather than cutting costs further.

Tara Sayre – cards will be handed out for additional pledges.

Vernie Gallagher– it is not a good idea to hit families with kids for more money

Laura Mazzulo – we should check other churches as to whether parents usually subsidize RE. We say this is not the norm but but we have not confirmed it.

Rev John – we are like many congregations that use general pool of funds and then fund each part of church life from one fund. Other groups do it differently, such as charge for specific services like RECY, Adult RE, and others. That has not been our model.

Kathy T-L – part of RECY – Katelyn works full time effort for part time hours. We need this effort to continue building RECY program. Please explain scrip to all so people will understand why they should do more in that area.

Tara – Tara explained scrip briefly. You buy cards for gas from Tapestry (who buys them from Arco indirectly who has sold it at a discount so we have \$100 card that we only paid \$98 for. Percentage of discount varies by retailer. You get same value for money but Tapestry keeps some of what you spend on gas, for example.

Jim Semelroth made a point of order – we should focus on budget proposal rather than other things.

Linda Yeargin – as a public school teacher she believes the general population needs to support education of children. Don't cut part time employees they need to support themselves and they are high quality

Shirley McGovern – in the past, as a RE committee member in other churches, she felt the need to take a poll about asking for money from parents– and they had the parents make a contribution to so people would come regularly, it was a way to get their commitment to the program by paying in advance.

Michael Boys – working with Penny and Julia – they are great to work with and know their stuff. We will have this discussion again next year. Everything we considered cutting has bad repercussions and was considered so we came up with the least damaging option. This is a good budget.

Bernie November – need to consider making sacrifices in comfort to make other things possible, such as giving up space to reduce rent.

Jocelyn – checking on company matching donations? Tara made a note of this idea but said many companies will not match for any religious organizations.

Dave Kinnear – better not to change our space before we make a move with OCUUC

Terry Smith- question about second option, move cap pledge to ops budget, what if we do make up the money we are short? Could be put it back in capital?

Tara – yes – we would go back to those who agreed to move their pledge and have them put it back.

Pat (Evan's Mom)– pledged 1 month tuition from private school to Tapestry since in the fall he will now go to Public school.

Jim – remember that the budget can be revised if needed later.

Paul Carlton moved to call the question

Dave Kinnear seconded

Aye 63

Nay 4

MSP

Old Business

We have 3 areas to consider in old business. First, I would like to invite Lauren Schmid forward for the Official Welcoming Congregation. They will be making a short presentation about what has been accomplished, what we've learned, and what we need to do next. Eric Daniels made the presentation.

Motion 1 – OWC

Matt Brideson moved

Eric Daniels seconded

Discussion - none

MSP unanimous

Aye _____ all _____

Nay _____ 0 _____

Motion 2 – OWC

Bylaw change: "This congregation affirms and promotes the full participation of persons in all our activities and endeavors; including membership, programming, hiring practices, and the calling of religious professionals, without regard to race, color, gender, gender identity or expression, physical or mental challenge, affectional or sexual orientation, class or national origin."

Motion: I move that we accept the bylaw change as submitted by the Official Welcoming Congregation Task Force.

Moved -Jeff Gothard

Seconded - Marcia Meyer

Discussion

none

Aye - all _____

Nay _____

GREEN SANCTUARY

Next, I would like to invite Carol Semelroth forward to present a motion toward achieving our Green Sanctuary status.

**COVENANT OF
Tapestry Unitarian Universalist Congregation
GREEN SANCTUARY PROJECT**

WE THE UNDERSIGNED,

- Recognizing the fragile and interdependent state of our Earth and all living things;
- Recognizing the need to protect and maintain the quality of our common life-giving natural resources such as water, soil, and air;
- Recognizing the need to join with others to bring forth a sustainable society based on respect for our planet and all its life-giving resources; and
- Recognizing our universal human rights to a clean environment:

DO THEREFORE DECLARE

To one another, to the greater community of life, and to future generations, our acceptance of responsibility for preserving and protecting the health, vitality, beauty, and diversity of this planet Earth.

TO THIS END

As members of the Tapestry Unitarian Universalist Congregation and through participation in the Green Sanctuary Project, we pledge our encouragement to one another in a personal and congregational commitment to living this promise through our

Unitarian Universalist Principles, including the Seventh Principle, "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." In addition to specific projects and activities, we make the following commitments:

- We incorporate Seventh Principle values and practices into our worship services, celebrations and religious education programs;
- We live lightly on the Earth and strive to continually improve our environmental impact;
- We support efforts to improve the quality of our watershed; and
- We affirm and promote programs to raise the awareness of human behaviors that affect the health and sustainability of the living Earth.”

Motion: I move that we affirm the Covenant of Tapestry Unitarian Universalist Congregation’s Green Sanctuary project

Move- Carol Semeroth

Seconded- Eric Daniels

Discussion – how much is the cost - \$100 per congregation

All - ayes

Aye _____

Nay _____

Motion: I move that we apply for Green Sanctuary Accreditation.

Moved : Carol Semelroth

Seconded : Carole Shannon

OCUUC Discussions

Finally, we need to vote on whether to continue conversations with Orange Coast UUC. Last week they passed a motion to continue conversations with us, and we need to vote on a similar motion.

Motion: I move that we continue our discussions with Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church.

Moved – Shirley MCGovern moved

Seconded – Dave Dearing

Discussion:

Jim Semeloth – will speak for and against the motion. OCUUC seems to have moved backwards, they changed bylaws to require more approval for future motions. Motion is meaningless but we should pass it so we don't send a negative signal

David Dearing – give 'em another shot, I support the motion

Eric – stay engaged so they will eventually

Aye - all

Nay

MSP

New Business

As there was no New Business submitted, we will move to the report of the Nominating Committee.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Almost done folks. Lastly, we need to approve the new slate of Board of Trustees.

The Nominating Committee has proposed the following slate of trustees:

Michael Boys, Mark Fox, Laura Jackson, Richard Jagielko, Connie Pursell, Julia Rampone, Tara Sayre, and Carol Wheeler

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

Moved - David Dearing

Seconded - Betty Elliot

Discussion - none

Aye _____ all _____

Nay _____

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

Moved: Liz Bear

Seconded: Rosi Pacilli

Adjournment

Do I have a motion to adjourn?

Moved: Jay Keithahn

Seconded : All

MSP

MOTION: I move that we adjourn the meeting

The meeting was adjourned at __12:50_____.

Penny stated that based on the cards returned as of now, 38 pledge units stated they will increase pledge by at least 1 month, some more

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 January 2008 Special Congregational Meeting as written.

#3 MOTION: I move that we accept the minutes of the April 2008 Special Congregational Meeting as written and distributed.

#4 MOTION: I move that we approve the 2008-2009 budget as submitted.

#5 OWC Motion 1 – (Something to the effect of submitting our application for OWC status)

#6 – OWC Motion 2: I move that we accept the bylaw change as submitted by the Official Welcoming Congregation Task Force.

#7 A Motion: I move that we affirm the Covenant of Tapestry Unitarian Universalist Congregation's Green Sanctuary project.

#7 B Motion: I move that we apply for Green Sanctuary Accreditation.

#8 Motion: I move that we continue our discussions with Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church.

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

#10 MOTION: I move that we adjourn the meeting