



April 13, 2008
Tapestry Special Congregational Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

Welcome to our April 2008 Congregational Meeting. While you are getting settled, I'd like to thank Charlotte Clarke for organizing the potluck, and to Erica Meslin for providing childcare. I'd also like to thank Mary Halunka for copying and distributing the meeting materials.

From the posted agenda for reference:

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting (January 27, 2008)
4. Report of the Ad Hoc Committees (Exploratory Task Force)
5. Old Business
6. New Business: Whether to merge with Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church, assuming and acceptable site is found
7. Adjourn

Call to Order

Good afternoon. I call this Congregational Meeting to order at 12:36 pm.

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.

Our membership stands at 165 members. Our bylaws state we need 25 percent of our members present to constitute a quorum to conduct business, which is 42 members. We require 40% for this special vote, per a vote by the Board. You are a member if you have signed the book and made a pledge. Please raise your hand if you are a member so we can take a count.

If number of members is between 165 and 168, a quorum is 42 .

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

Laura, will you please record that about 82 members are present.

We conduct these meetings in the spirit of Robert's Rules of Order. Dave Kinnear 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 (including mine!) about how this goes:

First, we need to stick to the agenda that was distributed. 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, as per our bylaws.

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 will call for 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 individually – please wait for the mic so that everyone can hear you.

Before you begin speaking, please repeat your name so that our Secretary Laura Jackson can record it for the minutes. Discussion needs to focus specifically on the pros and cons of the 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 may 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, for the vote about continuing or not with Orange Coast, we'll take a count for those votes to determine the level of support or concern.

Approval of Agenda

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

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

Terry Black moved
Julia Rampone seconded

Discussion - none

All those in favor - all

None opposed

No Abstentions

Approval of the Minutes of the January 2008 Special Congregational Meeting

At this meeting, we voted on the following items:

- Whether to define an actionable path to unification with Orange Coast UU Church.

This motion was passed. The minutes were provided here at Tapestry, and are posted on the web site.

Are there any additions or corrections to the minutes?

Yes, one friendly amendment, the clarification on the number of members present required for a quorum based on total membership was not clear and will be clarified.

Do I have a motion?

MOTION: I move that we accept the minutes of the January 2008 Annual Meeting as written and distributed with a friendly amendment to clarify the wording around the attendance numbers.

Keith Tuominen-Lenney moved
Luanna Hall seconded

Discussion - none

All those in favor - all

None opposed

No Abstentions

Report of the Ad Hoc Committee – Exploratory Task Force

The Boards decided to establish a task force of 12 people – equally represented by **6** from each congregation. Additionally, there are 4 ex-officio members – again, equally represented by **2** from each congregation. The Exploratory Task Force, or “ETF” as it became named, consists of Tapestry Members Dave Kinnear, Christine Krueger, Jim Semelroth, and Keith Tuominen; and Tapestry Board Members Richard Jagielko and Julia Rampone. Jim Semelroth serves as co-chair with Mickey Jackson from OCUUC, and Rev. John and I are the ex officio members. I would like to take a moment to recognize the diligent efforts of this team in getting us to this place. They have spent a lot of time and energy on this effort. Would the ETF members who are here today please stand for a moment so we can give you a hand?

Thank you!

ETF Report – (Jim Semelroth) Thanks to Connie for stepping in as VP Ops and temp Pres for April. Completed profiles, comparisons of bylaws, cottage mtgs (75 people) many pages of data collected. Several meetings of the congregations, joint service, youth meeting, joint picnic Friday about 100 people there, subcommittees set up for all the areas needing attention, bylaws, budget, RECY, etc. We have a site committee that meets weekly, and back up people for checking out sites. Lynn will speak with an update. Reports have been coming out from these groups. Reports provided to the boards of both organizations. Reporting structure has been defined. More subcommittees will be formed as we move along in the process. As for the Cottage meetings, there were 9 total, and 76 people attended these meetings from Tapestry.

So now, you know how we got here, AND what we have learned. The question now becomes to “what next?” As we have no Old Business to discuss on the agenda, we will move to our next item of “New Business”.

NEW BUSINESS

As I mentioned in my letter and in the agenda, you will be deciding on whether to move towards merging with OCUUC.

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Today is the third vote of a 4-stage voting process, which will *only* go subsequent stages if both congregations want it.

1. Stage 1 was in June 2007, where we opened the door to discussions.
2. Stage 2 was in January when we committed to exploring a merger. We declared *intent*.
3. Stage 3 is today, and would be the “yes, we are committed to merging” or “no, we do not want to merge”. This is also the time at which OCUUC will take a vote to sell their building. It is critical that OCUUC know whether or not we would be moving forward together before they put their home on the market. We would be basically *committed* to merging at this point.
4. Finally, Stage 4 would *only* happen if both congregations had agreed to merge in Stage 3, and would be the point at which new bylaws were adopted, a new name instituted, and a single legal entity created. This would basically be the “legalities” stage.

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Susan Rao - Motion to have a written vote for confidentiality. Easier to unify if votes are cast privately and counted. Dissenters will not be identifiable. Seconded 5 opposed, rest in favor

So, to begin the discussion, I need a motion.

MOTION: I move that this congregation commit to deeply exploring a merger between OCUUC and Tapestry.

Motion by David Dearing

Do I have a second?

Second Vernie Gallagher

Before you begin discussion, please be aware that Orange Coast is voting on **exactly** the same motion at their congregational meeting today. While Tara Sayre can consider amendments, it could lead to substantive differences between the motions being passed at each congregation, so I would ask our members not to ‘wordsmith’ the motion.

Discussion

Wendy Washington Hoiseth– do we merge after we find a building? Response: yes

Gloria Lepoff - Can we get out of our lease of this building? Response: Yes, We are month to month

Jay Keithahn – move to call the question

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Motion seconded but defeated (40 in favor, 41 against) Discussion continued.

Marie Ferguson - Is vote contingent on finding an acceptable site – confirm that. Response: Yes.

Shirley McGovern – seems simplistic as do-able in dollars. Acceptable must also be affordable.

Response: Yes, that is part of the requirement

Shirley Aiken – ideas for thought about vote. Expanding UU in Orange County, has a lot of experience and seen many things happens. We should all think about the pros and cons of creating a large congregation. Also, where did this idea come from, the UUA and the district? Response: No, it came from the local people, congregants and leaders of both congregations

Paul Carlton– I will be in favor though he prefers a local church but this will be better overall

David Dearing – acceptable site – very encouraged by the work of the site search committee who is doing a great job and will help us find an acceptable site.

Lauren Schmid (formerly Lowe)– confused about OCUUC vote – do they need to sell their property? Do they know that? Response: They have 3 motions – 1 same as ours, 2nd is whether to sell building, there are contingencies in all of these motions.

Terry Parker – visibility of 2 buildings is good but having 1 is more advantageous in many ways

Sheila Raymond – it is still possible to have multiple sites for congregational events in the future even when we merge

Scott Ashbach - Acceptable to whom? Response: both congregations will have to approve it.

Robert Ross – history of OCUUC building is important even if the building has issues and may not be used in future.

VOTE – 85 votes cast

All those in favor 81

All those opposed 4

Any Abstentions 2 (not counted in votes cast)

I would like to thank each and every one of you for your participation today.

An email will be sent later today with the results of the OCUUC vote. We need everyone to be involved in the next stage especially if you have concerns and don't want to feel steam-rolled into a decision.

Thank you. Namaste.

Do I have a motion to adjourn the meeting?

MOTION: I move that we adjourn the meeting

Moved by David Dearing, second by Marcia Meyer
MSP

Meeting adjourned at 1:28pm