



February 18, 2007
Tapestry Congregational Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

Good afternoon. I call this Special Membership Meeting to order at 11:45 a.m. Please take your seats.

Our membership stands at 163 members, according to the bylaws we need 25 percent of the membership present to constitute a quorum to conduct business, which is 41 members. You are a member if you have signed the book and made a financial commitment. Please raise your hand if you are a member so I can take a count.

Will the secretary please record that 71 members were present? Done.

As you know, 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 off, 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.

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 the business at hand today, only a simple majority is required.

Approval of Agenda

I will consider a motion to approve the agenda that was posted on the Tapestry web page and posted on the bulletin board.

MOTION: I move that we accept the agenda as published. (David Salahi)

Seconded (Anne Farrell)

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: Lynn Cowan **VP Finance:** Mary Pax Lenney **VP Operations:** Tara Sayre

Treasurer: Penny Kinnear **Secretary:** Laura Jackson **Directors:** Sal Nawaz, Connie Pursell

Discussion. none

Aye (all)

Nay - none

Abstentions - none

Approval of the Minutes of the November Special Congregational Meeting

The minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting held in November have been reviewed by the Board, but have not been posted or distributed to the membership. So we will defer approving those minutes until the Annual Meeting on June 10.

Old Business – none submitted

New Business

Today we are here to make some decisions that are key to Tapestry's future. I would like to thank many people who got us to this point. In particular,

Bob Meyer and Jim Semelroth who co-chaired the Stewardship Campaign team last year that positioned us for where we are today, and to Carole Shannon who coordinated the Visiting Stewards last year and will in the upcoming campaign, along with Rob Riccardi, who is in training to take over Carole's position next year. Almost half of the members of our congregation play some role in the festivities surrounding our annual giving to support our home here at Tapestry. And on behalf of the Board of Directors, we greatly appreciate your commitment to sustaining and growing our good works with your time and talents. I'd also like to thank Rosy Pacilli who stepped up to fill the Membership Chair position at the start of the UUA marketing campaign. She and her team have made tremendous improvements in the way we welcome newcomers and created a path to membership that some of you may have followed to be here today. If this is your first Tapestry congregational meeting or if you've attended every one of them, thank you for making the time to be present, to live our fifth principle—the use of democratic principles within our congregations—to participate in this meeting that will start a new page in the history of Tapestry. I'd also like to thank Larry Wheeler, our UUA consultant, who is on the phone for all of his advice, his coaching, his prodding, and his patience with us. Larry, would you like to say a few words.

Larry mentioned that he was not here in person, mainly to save Tapestry the cost of attending the meeting. He made a few comments about the Financial Feasibility Study (FFS) and Capital Campaign (CC). While Tapestry has no building or site in hand, which is good to have, it is not required to proceed with the CC. Others have done it successfully in advance of the CC, he named Thousand Oaks as an example. We can often find an opportunity for which our congregation is a very good fit and we may be preferable to a commercial buyer. Larry agrees that protecting the CC funds is a very important matter and it deserves the attention it has been given by the board and the congregation. He thinks the concern is being well handled. Larry remained on the line for the next 3 motions.

Vote to accept the Financial Feasibility Study Report

Last November the congregation approved hiring Larry Wheeler, our UUA consultant, to conduct a Financial Feasibility Study to determine two things. First, how ready are we to undertake a capital campaign to fund a

home of our own, and second, to estimate how much we might raise from a campaign. Each member was mailed a copy of the report, and we held six meetings for members and friends to comment and ask questions.

Do I have a motion to accept the Financial Feasibility Study Report?

MOTION: I move that we accept the Financial Feasibility Study Report. (David Kinnear)

Second (Sal Nawaz)

Any Discussion? None.

Aye - all

Nay - none

Abstention - none

Vote to authorize a capital campaign

The Financial Feasibility Study Report surveyed approximately 50 members who were selected for their diversity of views on the Capital Campaign. We sought out the full range of voices. Larry's report indicates that while 12 percent members surveyed did not see acquiring a home of our own as a high priority, 16 percent saw acquiring a home of our own is a high priority, with some reservations, and 72 percent believed that a new home of our own **is** a high priority, with no reservations.. That makes a total of 88 percent in favor of moving forward to purchase a new home. Based on estimates of potential gifts from those surveyed, the Report stated that in a capital campaign, we could raise between \$700,000 and \$900,000.

One key recommendation made in the report was to establish iron clad restrictions on the use of the funds raised in the Capital Campaign. Last week the Board approved such a policy, and it was distributed via e-mail to the all@tapestry e-mail list and to all newsletter subscribers. Printed copies were also made available today.

The report also recommended that we establish minimum criteria for features needed in a new Tapestry home. Much of the groundwork had been laid for this by the original Comprehensive Planning Committee, with follow up work by Connie Pursell, Tara Sayre, Penny Kinnear, and particularly by Mary Pax Lenney. In the past three weeks, Irv Himmelblau volunteered to pull the information together and obtain input on the specific needs of various groups in the congregation. His New Facility Space and Site proposal was also distributed online and in printed form here today.

The report also recommended that we expand the New Facilities committee, but I am not aware of anyone who has let the Nominating Committee know of their interest in building a team to analyze properties and make recommendations. Signing the agreement with the realtor won't take place until we have that team and decision making procedures in place. Please see David Salahi if you are interested in being a part of this team.

In summary, we have the vast majority of what we need in place today to move forward. What we need next is committed capital campaign gifts so that we can apply for grants and show funding sources that we have, not only the desire to purchase a home of our own, but we have the financial backing to make it happen.

Do I have a motion to authorize a capital campaign?

MOTION: I move that we authorize a capital campaign to raise funds for a home of our own with funds dispersed according the policy that the board has approved. (Betty Elliot)

Second (Marcia Meyer)

Any Discussion – Cheering!

Aye - all

Nay - none

Abstention – none

Vote to authorize the goal for the capital campaign,

The Report recommended that we set a capital campaign goal in support of this priority at between \$600,000 and \$800,000.

Do I have a motion to set a goal amount for the capital campaign?

MOTION: I move that we set the goal for the Tapestry Capital Campaign in support of a home of our own in the amount of \$750,000. (Jim Semelroth)

Second (Ruth McCoy)

Any Discussion –

Discussion that goal may be very conservative but hopefully we set something we will definitely reach and probably exceed. Agreement that it is good to be realistic. Some questions off the subject of the motion were brought up. Level of debt we take on and who controls that, timeframe of taking CC pledges and when they are due, mention of UUA grants, how much interest the CC account will be earning, how to communicate the progress of the campaign effectively should be addressed. Use of newsletter may be OK for reporting if the lag in posting of donations is known.

Aye - all

Nay – none

Abstention - none

Larry discontinued the call at this time on request.

Vote to approve hiring a UUA consultant to guide Tapestry through the campaign.

Larry Wheeler, who has provide excellent guidance to get us to this point, has provided a proposed statement of work to include two visits: one in March to conduct a training workshop; the second would be in May or June for a followup meeting after the initial phase of the campaign. The estimated cost is \$2860. These funds are one of the authorized items that can be paid from the Capital Campaign fund.

Do I have a motion regarding approval to hire a UUA consultant to guide Tapestry through the capital campaign?

MOTION: I move that we approve hiring a UUA consultant to guide Tapestry through the capital campaign. (Richard Huddleston)

Second (David Kinnear)

Any Discussion - It was confirmed that any costs incurred after May are not included in this estimate. It is not clear what kind of consulting if any will be needed. That will be for the board or the congregation to decide.

Aye - all

Nay - none

Abstention - none

Jim Semelroth and the congregation commended the board for their efforts with cheering and applause.

This meeting is also an opportunity to get to know our church leadership.

Will all Board members present please stand and state your names?

Will all committee chairs present stand and state your name and your committee?

Will everyone who is playing a role in the upcoming campaign please stand?

If you are interested in becoming more active in the work of Tapestry, particularly to help in areas I have mentioned today, please contact Dave Salahi, chair of the nominating committee, Tara Sayre, VP Operations, Rev. John, or any church leader to explore how you can help.

That concludes the business on the agenda of today's meeting. Thank you everyone for coming today.

Adjournment

I will consider a motion to adjourn. Moved – Shirley Aiken, Seconded Jeff Gothard, MSP

The meeting was adjourned at 12 noon.

Proposed motions:

MOTION: I move that we accept the agenda as published.

MOTION: I move that we accept the Financial Feasibility Study Report.

MOTION: I move that we authorize a capital campaign to raise funds for a home of our own with funds dispersed according the policy that the board has approved.

MOTION: I move that we set the goal for the Tapestry Capital Campaign in support of a home of our own in the amount of \$750,000.

MOTION: I move that we approve hiring a UUA consultant to guide Tapestry through the capital campaign.