

**UUCJ CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
December 4, 2016
MINUTES**

I. Call to order

Lois Hoeft, UUCJ President, welcomed the congregation and thanked everyone present in the sanctuary and at East Nassau for their participation. Hoeft read the covenant and went over the rules to be followed when addressing the agenda items.

A quorum was established. There were 66 members from Jacksonville, and 6 from East Nassau for a total of 72 members. The minimum requirement was 40 members present.

Hoeft called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

II. Opening Words

Hoeft asked Samantha Ledyard to offer the opening words. She expressed her sincere thanks to the Board and the congregation for having had their support for the past two years while she had been the Board President. She stated that it had been a privilege to serve with Board members who had been dedicated and committed. She expressed how much she had enjoyed working with the Board. Hoeft explained that she was rotating off the Board but would continue to remain engaged with the Church in a variety of ways. Hoeft received a standing ovation from the congregation.

Samantha Ledyard offered the opening words and thanked Hoeft for her leadership and hard work.

III. By-Laws Amendment

Hoeft stated that the proposed amendment had been published as required by the By-Laws and could be found at the bottom of the congregational meeting agenda. She explained why the amendment was necessary and read it prior to the vote:

MOTION: (Tessie Bond/Carlos Fraticelli) – To amend ARTICLE VIII STANDING COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS AND TASK FORCES, Section 5 Funding, to read:

Whenever a Church group wishes to raise funds for a special or specific purpose, the group must gain permission from the Board Treasurer and the Fund Raising Committee. 72 – 0, Unanimous adoption.

Hoeft reminded all to ensure that they were in compliance with the membership conditions required to be considered a Church member. Specifically that you have submitted your annual financial commitment, and you have submitted a traceable financial contribution within the fiscal year. Hoeft explained that in January the membership roll will be reviewed to determine the membership count.

Hoeft also briefly addressed the new Portfolio system of grouping committees and working groups under a portfolio leader.

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IV. Proposed 2017 Mission Budget

Kathleen McKenzie introduced the proposed 2017 Mission Budget and emphasized a number of points:

- The proposed budget is balanced, realistic, and does not use reserves to fund staff or programs.
- Income over \$17,000 produced by the Service Auction and all net Fundraising income will be dedicated to a capital campaign.
- In order to uphold our UU values, benefits are included for the Director of Religious Education and the Custodian. Currently, benefits are only paid for the Administrator.
- A compensation Policy for all employees has been proposed to the Board.
- Funds are included to hire a Bookkeeper to give Jennifer Riley, the Church Administrator, more time to complete other duties.
- Our UUA GIFT will be 7% of 2015 expenses, making our Church a 2017 Honor Congregation.
- Although a Campus Renewal Reserve – to amortize repairs and replacements of major systems was re-instated, funds were not available for 2017.

McKenzie thanked the UUCJ members who attended the Budget Workshop in late October. She stated that they participated in an in-depth examination of a provisional budget based on the needs and missions of the church. They came to the conclusion that we could not meet the projected needs and missions at that time based on the pledges that had come in; even after committee leaders voluntarily trimmed their budgets. They had wanted to present a budget today that could not be funded out of projected 2017 income in the hopes that the congregation would step up to fill the gaps.

In its final review of the budget, the Finance Committee found that pledges were still coming in and based on the previous two years in which we had excess income over projected expenses, we could in good conscience project more income.

It was noted that even though the congregation was being presented with a balanced budget, the workshop attendees, the committee leaders and the Finance Committee had to cut expenses to the bare bones; and the Mission Funding Team had to work very hard to get all the pledges in.

MOTION: (Kathleen McKenzie/Carlos Fraticelli) - Whereas the Board has approved the proposed budget, be it resolved that the congregation approves the proposed 2017 budget as presented. 72 – 0, Unanimous adoption.

Other items addressed were the Buildings and Grounds allocation of \$16,000 for 2017; upgrading the campus lighting being a priority; and conducting a capital campaign.

V. Election of Candidates to Board membership

Hoeft introduced the candidate that had been identified and recommended by the Leadership Development Council (LDC). The LDC is charged with identifying candidates to attend SULEE

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and vacant Board positions. The members nominated were David Keel to replace Roger Cochran who had one more year to serve on the Board but resigned due to his and his wife's physical move to Atlanta, Ga.; Chris Pridham and Laura Tavoularis for a three-year term each.

MOTION: (Ann Rudolph/Donna Janesky) – To elect all three candidates. 72-0, Unanimous adoption.

VI. Announcements

- Immediately after adjourning the congregational meeting, there will be a Foundation meeting. Hoeft asked the members to stay for that meeting to vote on the foundation's agenda items that needed a congregational vote.
- The 2017 Board members will meet immediately after adjourning the congregational meeting to elect officers for 2017.

VII. Adjournment

Hoeft addressed the membership in closing and again thanked everyone for having been so wonderful toward her and so helpful to the Board members with whom she had served for the past two years.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tessie Bond, Secretary to the Board