

Material for the Oct. 11, 2009 Special Meeting of the UUCLV Congregation

Your Board of Trustees wants to keep the congregation well informed. And many in the congregation have requested that material to be voted on at congregational meetings be available in advance. We want everyone to have an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the issues to be voted on.

Therefore the Board decided to post all available relevant material on the UUCLV website, 30 days in advance of congregational meetings, if possible.

We have done our best to include everything you "need to know". For some, it may be TMI - Too Much Information. We provide a summary level, for those who prefer the "big picture". But those who like the "nitty, gritty" level of detail should be happy too.

The official "call of the meeting" is due Sept 27, two weeks before the meeting. Therefore the wording of the final, formal notice of the meeting may change slightly. Some additional names may appear on the Nominating Committee's slate, before Oct. 11th. But for the most part, everything you need to read and think about is included below.

If there are additions or changes, you will be notified via the eNews.

BRIEFEST SUMMARY:

A special congregational meeting will be held Oct. 11, at 11:45 in the sanctuary. All voting members are asked to attend. Those present will: 1) hear a couple of reports; 2) vote on some changes to the bylaws (primarily effecting some committees); and 3) elect committee chairs and members of a Fact Finding Task Group. [This summary is not the "official call" of the meeting.]

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- 1) A preliminary agenda of the meeting
- 2) The Nominating Committee's present version of the slate of those nominated
- 3) A preliminary, "pre-release", version of the call to the meeting
- 4) An explanation of the Fact Finding Task Group's assignment
- 5) Summaries, explanations, and detailed motions for the proposed changes to the bylaws (separate PDF file)

Board members are: Mark Albright, Cease Blocker, Rev. Nancy Bouchard (ex officio), John Brennan, Fran Kennedy, Monica Miller Marsh, Larry Martin, Kathy Stagl (Clerk), Bill Thompson (Pres.) & Tara Zrinski (ex officio)

Draft Agenda

UUCLV Special Congregational Meeting
Sunday, Oct. 11, 2009 11:45 am

1. Call to Order - 11:45
2. Determination if 25% Quorum is present
3. Brief Explanation of "Rules of the Road"
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Approval of Minutes from prior congregational meeting of June 7, 2009
6. One or two Reports
7. New Business
 - a. Congregation Decides on Time Limits for Speakers During Discussion
 - b. Explanation of Board's Recommended Bylaws Changes and Voting on them.
 - c. Appointment of Tellers, Report of Nominating Committee on Nominations for Committee Chairs and Members of Fact Finding Task Group, Nominations from Floor
 - d. Election by written ballot (if there are nominations from the floor).
8. Adjourn

Note: If the bylaws changes pass, they take effect immediately and the election will be in accordance with the new committee structure.

The Nominating Committee's Tentative Slate

(May be revised before Oct 11)

As committee chairs or co-chairs:

- Adult RE – Fred Bomberger & Jeanette Radosta
- Church Family – Sue Phillips & Janet Warren
- Communications – TBA.
- Denominational Affairs – Henry and Christine Davis
- Finance – Sue Weber
- Long Range Planning – Bernie Bujnowski
- Membership – Jessica Bors, Ilse Zinnes
- Property – Ellen Bell & Will Sadler
- Social Action – Mark Albright
- Stewardship – Pat Herring, Christine Davis
- Worship – Maggie Spilner & Hope Wesley Harrison
- Youth RE - Judy Claps & Lynne Zipprodt

As Members of Fact Finding Task Group – TBA

Preliminary Draft of Call to UUCLV Special Congregational Meeting

[Note: Official "Call" will be issued on or before Sept 27th, and may differ slightly from this draft]

A special meeting of UUCLV's Congregational will be held October 11th, at 11:30 AM. Agenda items include:

- reports;
- election of committee chairs
- election of members of a Fact Finding Task Force; &
- bylaw changes, some of which will impact the election.

All voting members are encouraged to attend.

The proposed bylaws changes will:

Revise the Article on Officers to:

- Change the requirement for 'periodic audits' to 'periodic independent financial review'. This was recommended by a JPD review of our finances and could result in a savings of thousands of dollars per year.
- Acknowledge that the Membership Committee, not the Clerk, has for years been maintaining church membership records. And drop the requirement that the Clerk also be a member of the Membership Committee.

Revise the Article on Committees to:

- Change the requirement for 'periodic audits' to 'periodic independent financial review'. This was recommended by a JPD review of our finances and could result in a savings of thousands of dollars per year. [Makes same change in 9.2 as was done in 8.3.]
- Change the status of Stewardship from a subcommittee of Finance to a separate, standing committee working year round.
- Change the status of the Building Use Committee from a standing committee to a subcommittee of Finance.
- Change the name of the Endowment Committee, which is a subcommittee of Finance, to The Heritage Society Committee.
- Remove the Hospitality Committee as a subcommittee of Membership and include its functions among those of the Membership Committee.
- Clarify the Membership Committee responsibility to update the membership record and to report changes to the Clerk prior to any congregational meeting.
- Merge the Public Relations and Communications Committees. It will promote church activities and programs by internal and external communications.
- Simplify the responsibilities of the Building and Grounds Committee
 - Clarify its interactions with staff, and rename it the Property Committee
- Merge the Music Committee with the Worship Committees
- Allow the Committee on Ministry to elect its own chair
- Removes the responsibility of being a support group for the minister from the Committee on Ministry duties
- *Strengthens the focus of the Committee on Ministry on visioning and oversight*

Revise the Articles on the Minister, Amendments, and Endowment Fund to allow abstentions to have a neutral effect on the outcome of a vote.

The wording of the actual bylaws motions and the Nominating Committee's slate can be read on the UUCLV web site. Links will be provided via the eNews and the *Spectator*. Nominations can also be made from the floor.

Fact Finding Task Group

On Oct. 11, you will be asked to elect a "Fact Finding Task Group". The intent for forming this group is simple --- their task is important and not easy.

A lot of questions have been asked about the investments necessary to improve and maintain our present facilities. Such as "how much money does it make sense to spend on "bricks and mortar"?

We have no shortage of opinions. Emotions run high. In order for the congregation to make informed decisions we need facts.

The Board recommends forming a task group to gather the data needed for evaluating alternative scenarios for UUCLV's future.

The scope of the effort will be fairly broad. It will examine some current and past operating assumptions about the church community. And translate those assumptions into "alternative future scenarios". This effort may take into consideration such items as:

- How well are the church's needs are being met in our current building?
- How much should we continue to invest in the building?
- If we decide to leave, what are the options?
- What options exist if we can't afford upkeep on the building?

The task group will not decide these issues for us, it will just gather data the congregation needs to make good decisions about future outlays of money and effort. It will operate with the guidance and support of the Long Range Planning Committee (LRP).

The Task Group's report will be reviewed by LRP and the Board, but final decisions are made by the congregation.