

Irvine United Congregational Church
2015 Spring Congregational Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2015

Moderator Anne Rosse called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m.

The agenda, meeting materials, and voting cards were distributed as participants arrived for the meeting.

Church Administrator Michael Spindle was ill. In his absence, Cindy O'Dell, a member of the Administration Board, reported that 100 of our corporate members were in attendance, thus establishing a quorum. Anne thanked Matthew Redrich for his assistance in preparing the booklets for today's meeting as well as the many other folks who contributed to the meeting preparation.

The opening prayer was led by Matthew Redrich, Interim Director, Adult Education and Media.

Anne introduced Rachel Dill as parliamentarian for the meeting.

Lorraine Fox moved approval of the agenda. Jen Mirmak seconded. The agenda was approved unanimously by the congregation.

The Minutes from the February 1, 2015, Winter Congregational meeting were accepted as presented.

David Schofield, Chair of the Task Force on Bylaws, Policies and Procedures, presented the following proposed Amendments to the Bylaws:

- Changes to Article 8, Section 1(B): Add "posted to the IUCC website" as one of the modes of delivering the proposed budget; Change the required number of days prior to the meeting to distribute the proposed budget from 14 days to 10 days; and Add a waiver provision to allow for a change in the number of days required to disseminate the proposed budget if an unforeseen delay should occur.
- Changes to Article 12: Add a new Standing Committee, The Finance Committee, to work with the Treasurer and staff in reviewing the budget and financials of the church; and Write policies and procedures for this Standing Committee whose makeup will consist of the Treasurer, an Assistant Treasurer, one Congregational Representative on the Admin Board, and two Corporate Members of IUCC.
- Under Article 16, make changes to coordinate with the changes made in Article 8, Section 1(B).
- Changes to Article 4 (Definitions): Add "Licensed Pastor" to the definitions as follows: *An employee who has been licensed by the Southern Association of the Southern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ and hired by the Congregation to serve as a pastor of this Church*; and Update "Pastoral Staff" definition to accommodate addition of "Licensed Pastor" as follows: *An employee who has been ordained and called by the Congregation to serve as a pastor or has been licensed by the Southern California Association of the Southern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ and hired by the Congregation of this Church.*

These changes were also summarized in a handout provided in the meeting materials.

Jessie Billings moved approval of the Bylaw Amendments. Mark Allen seconded. Renae Boyum noted that on the organizational chart under "Nominating Committee," the Chair of Congregational Participation should be replaced by the Chair of New Member Development. Dave agreed to make the change. Keith Boyum questioned why the Plumer Endowment Fund Committee showed only two members on the organizational chart. Dave responded that two was the minimum number, which could go up to 15. The motion to approve the Bylaw Amendments as presented was approved unanimously, with two abstentions.

Cindy O'Dell moved receipt of the reports from ministries and committees. Jean Raymoure seconded. Dave Smith expressed concern about the proposed deacons program. Anne responded that both boards had approved it on a trial basis – if we want to commit to it long-term, we will pursue formalization later in the year. She added that the concept would be covered in more detail by Pastor Paul during his report. The congregation approved receipt of the reports unanimously, with two abstentions.

Anne thanked and recognized those serving in leadership positions during the past year, then introduced the proposed leadership slate for 2015-16. There was one correction: Anita Schwab will not be the Coffee Hour Coordinator but will assist with the job. There was one additional nomination: Dawn Price nominated Lesley Wheland to serve as Worship Ministry Chair. Don Bjorklund moved approval of the 2015-16 leadership slate. Carol Ballesty seconded. The motion was approved unanimously by the congregation.

Building Task Force members presented an update on the Building Project. Anne provided a recap of our progress and showed a slide show detailing the three phases of the plan, the proposed landscape and hardscape, and the re-envisioned Alton frontage. She reported that the plan was submitted to the City of Irvine in June 2014, but the process is lengthy and ongoing. We are hopeful for Conditional Use Permit approval from the City sometime this summer. The Capital Campaign Pre-Planning Committee decided it would be unwise to overlap this campaign with the stewardship campaign and felt it would be best to wait on a vote until January 2016. In the meantime, we have invited Priscilla Bizer (from UCC Capital Campaign Services) to come at the end of September 2015 to talk about the capital campaign process. We estimate a cost of approximately \$2 million for Phase I, \$1.5 of which is to be raised in the capital campaign. We could launch as early as February 2016. \$150,000 was approved by the congregation for the planning process, and we are at \$108,000 in expenditures to date.

Jim Raver responded to several questions as follows: IUCC meets the package requirements set by the City of Irvine; the plans show the grassy area in the back will be replaced by parking and the grassy area will be moved to the front; he does not believe there will be a left turn lane into the parking lot; we will have an opportunity to have input on details; and ultimately, we will add 100 more seats to the rear of the sanctuary.

Treasurer Mark Allen gave a Budget Update, the highlights of which are as follows: We have a positive net income of \$12,000; kudos to the ECC for turning results around and increasing student numbers; pledge payments are 4% over last year through March; and we are in good shape with expenses. At the February 1 Winter Meeting, we talked about giving staff a 1% cost of living adjustment (COLA) on July 1 if results were good enough, and that looks possible now. The COLA was included in the approved 2015 budget.

Senior Pastor Paul Tellström provided a brief report on the state of the church, the highlights of which are as follows: he thanked the congregation for sending him to the Festival of Homiletics; he

acknowledged the ECC committee members for helping turn the program around so successfully; after two years of small declines, IUCC is finishing this year with a small increase in attendance; we are seeing real growth at the first service; the new staffing model is working well; the Jesus Seminar was successful; Bible Study is going well; we are looking forward to welcoming Rachel Held Evans in September; the MYP is a great team that brings good programs for our youth; and he will be setting aside 6-8 Sundays this year to focus on topics deserving of special attention.

He has approached the Southern Association to have Sarah Fiske-Phillips designated as a licensed pastor, which would allow her to preach quarterly and assist him with certain pastoral duties. She would be licensed by the Association and enter into an agreement with IUCC to do specific ministry at our church only, and it would not involve any cost. The retired pastors in our congregation already maintain their ordained status, so it will not affect them.

He spoke about the proposed deacons program, which will allow us to handle the disparate duties on Sunday morning more consistently. It will provide a place for people to serve as well as build community. A group of 18-24 deacons is proposed, with their service beginning this summer. It is an experiment. There will be an assessment at the end of the year to determine if it should become more permanent.

Several members of the congregation expressed concern about using the word "deacon," which is a loaded term for some people. Suggested alternatives included "Service Board" or "Sunday Crew." Jerry Price (who would lead the deacons) said it would be a cohesive team of servants tasked with covering Sunday morning duties, thus freeing up staff and ministry leaders for other responsibilities. Dawn Price added that the concept is deliberately not fully cooked yet – the deacons themselves would set parameters.

There was a very nice presentation to Anne (outgoing Moderator) and Martha Selby (outgoing Administration Board Chair), both of whom are stepping down from leadership positions. They were given what appeared to be reams of paper (representing all the paperwork they had created), which turned out to be lovely floral arrangements. Both Dave Schofield and Renae Boyum spoke to their outstanding planning, thought, and intentionality in the performance of their duties.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Pastor Paul led the congregation in a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Tricia Aynes
Clerk, Administration Board