

Irvine United Congregational Church
Winter Congregational Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2013

Moderator Cindy O'Dell called the meeting to order at 12:32 PM. Michael Spindle, who had staffed a table to check in members, confirmed there was a quorum present. The Moderator called for motions to amend the Agenda. There were none. Brian Percy moved to approve the agenda. Steve Goetz seconded. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Associate Pastor Elizabeth Griswold led the congregation in an opening prayer.

The Moderator called for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 2012 Congregation meeting. Felicity Figueroa moved to approve; the motion was seconded by Constance Cassady. The Moderator asked for discussion. Two corrections to the spelling of names were noted. There were no other corrections. The minutes were approved as corrected by voice vote.

Approval of New Congregational Leaders

The following Ministries had positions requiring Congregational approval: Meredith Anderson and Stephanie Sanders: Co-Chairs for the Ministry for Youth and Young Adults; Laura Long for Chair of the Early Education Center. Cindy noted that each position previously had been approved by the Administration Board.

Don Bjorklund moved for approval of the Ministry positions and it was seconded. The Congregation approved the motion via voice vote.

Moderator's Report

The Moderator opened the floor for discussion/questions regarding the issues of concern to the congregation. Randy Romine asked for a volunteer to act as Congregational Historian. There were no other comments or questions. The Moderator recognized Michael Spindle and Heidi Willcox for their continued efforts to support the congregation.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Greg Guth discussed the church's 2012 financial statements. The budget for 2012 projected a loss of \$869 but the final amount was a surplus of \$7,626. The Early Childcare Center had a loss of \$8,440. In 2012, the congregation gave \$61,414 to various causes. The church's financial reserves are healthy.

The Moderator solicited the congregation for questions regarding church finances. There were none.

2013 Budget

The Moderator called for a discussion of the 2013 budget. Greg Guth led the Congregation in reviewing the proposed budget, which previously had been approved by the Administration Board. Greg noted that there had been a Budget Workshop held in the previous week, at which questions had been answered. Greg called for any new questions from the congregation.

David Carruthers asked about the \$7,000 paid in 2012 by the Administration Board for a Consultant. It was explained that that was expended for Rev. Pat Bizer, who consulted to the Congregation with respect to the Capital Campaign.

Greg called for a Motion to approve the 2013 budget. Susie Lang so moved, and Renae Boyum seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The 2013 Budget was unanimously approved via voice vote.

Building Survey

Moderator Cindy O'Dell discussed the results of the recent congregational survey regarding needs and priorities. There were about 100 responses received. She stated that the Congregation consensus was to move ahead. Accordingly, the Administration Board will pursue the plan that was approved by the Congregation in May 2012—i.e., to hire a consultant to engage in a dialog with the City of Irvine to modify the Conditional Use Permit.

In response to a question, Cindy stated that the initial budget for the CUP dialog was \$50,000, and that, before spending in excess of the approved amount, the congregation would be consulted.

State of the Church

Sr. Pastor Paul Tellstrom expressed his gratitude for being given the opportunity to serve this congregation. He discussed challenges facing the congregation in 2013, noting that there had been a loss of a regular pledge of \$20,000 in 2013. He stated that the congregation would need to make up that loss. He also noted that Associate Pastor Elizabeth Griswold was going to be taking several weeks of maternity leave in 2013, and that the congregation would need to fill that gap until her return.

He encouraged members to attend the Church Synod in July.

Paul thanked the church staff members for their efforts.

Paul commented that the church is pursuing a Safe Church policy for 2013.

Adjournment

The Moderator called for a motion to adjourn. Dave Smith moved and Tom Silk seconded. The motion to adjourn was adopted.

Pastor Paul led the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Sanders
Clerk, Administration Board