

**Irvine United Congregational Church
Winter Congregational Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2014**

Moderator Anne Rosse called the meeting to order at 12:17 p.m. The meeting packets and voting cards were distributed to congregants as they arrived. Church Administrator Michael Spindle reported that, with 99 members present, we had a quorum. The use of voting cards was introduced and explained. David Schofield was introduced as the Parliamentarian.

Rev. Paul Tellström gave the opening prayer.

Anne Rosse asked for a motion to accept the agenda as presented. It was so moved by Lorraine Fox and seconded by Doug Haynes. Anne asked that all in favor signify with their voting cards; a majority approved.

Anne Rosse requested a motion to approve the minutes of the May 2013 Spring Congregational Meeting and November 2013 Special Congregational Meeting. It was so moved by Jennifer Mirmak and seconded by Lester Ricks. The congregation voted to approve them.

Anne Rosse then reviewed the slate of offices appointed in the last six months and explained that each of these appointments had already been approved by the appropriate board, Ministries or Admin Board. She requested a motion to approve the January 2014 slate of officers as presented in the packet; it was so moved by Lavinia Cooper and seconded by David Carruthers. The congregation voted to approve the slate.

Next on the agenda, the congregation was directed to page 11 of our packets, which detailed updates to the IUCC Safe and Healthy Church Community Policy. The Safe Church Response Team has been established as the members of the Coordinating Council (Senior Pastor, Moderator, Admin Board Chair and Ministries Board Chair).

Lavinia Cooper suggested that we have someone on our Safe Church Response Team who has experience working with the Department of Social Services. The screening policy for staff working with youth was discussed. Jessie Billings commended IUCC for having a Safe Church Policy.

We were then directed to page 9 of the packet, which outlined proposed changes to the IUCC Bylaws. Members of the Task Force on Bylaws, Policies and Procedures are: Dave Schofield, chair; Don Bjorklund; Iris Bjorklund; Jerry Price; Anne Rosse; Suellen Rowe; and Michael Spindle. Suellen suggested that every member of IUCC should have a copy of the bylaws. David Schofield passed out copies to those who wanted one; Anne Rosse reminded us that the bylaws are on the IUCC website.

Matt Mirmak moved to approve the updates to the Safe Church Policy; it was seconded by Alaina Haynes. The motion carried with one abstention. Doug Haynes made a motion to approve the bylaw changes; it was seconded by Don Bjorklund. The motion was approved with one abstention.

Treasurer Mark Allen was invited to the podium to review the budget. He explained that IUCC had a good 2013. The financial statements in the meeting packets offer a comprehensive review so that congregants can be informed voters. Some highlights of his report:

- The 2014 budget is break even.
- \$75,000 has been raised for the building project.
- We have termite issues and other concerns that will need attention. These costs could be approximately \$18,000. Additional bids need to be obtained.
- A \$25,000 bequest was received, but it has not been decided how this will be spent.
- \$10,000 was allocated for capital expenses.
- Starting in 2014, all non-pastoral church staff who work 20 hours or more per week will receive a \$200 monthly credit toward cafeteria benefits.

Lorraine Fox thanked Mark for his diligence regarding the budget. Mark then recognized Michael Spindle and Heidi Willcox for their work.

The issue of expending funds for termite treatment on Plumer Hall was discussed. Because it wouldn't be torn down for at least a few years, termite treatment is appropriate.

Ken Wyatt stated that he hoped a cost of living adjustment (COLA) could come sooner than budgeted since we have such an outstanding staff. Anne Rosse took a motion to move the COLA start dates from 7/1/14 to 1/1/14; Ken made the motion with Suellen Rowe seconding it. Anne asked Mark to comment on how this increase would impact the budget; he said that it would have an approximately \$3500 impact. Following a discussion, the 2014 budget was approved as amended to reflect the 1/1/14 COLA start date.

Martha Selby, Chair of the Building Task Force, thanked the congregation for their enthusiastic support for the development of a Master Plan for the IUCC campus. All necessary funds have been received and the Building Task Force has begun working with Domusstudio Architecture. Anne Rosse shared a few updates from a recent conversation with Priscilla Bizer, a UCC capital campaign professional. We could be ready to launch a capital campaign in February 2015, assuming that the City of Irvine approves the Master Plan and the congregation then votes to move forward. The Building Task Force plans to present the Master Plan at the 2014 Spring Congregational Meeting. Until then, they will regularly update the congregation via the IUCC website and newsletter.

In his State of the Church address, Pastor Paul shared that he has been here for almost 8 years and we have seen many changes during that time. He described his ongoing commitment to building our MYP demographics (youth, young families and young adults), highlighting the strong staff in this area: Sarah Fiske-Phillips, Annie Mellott, Tricia Abouabdo and Honah Thompson. Paul announced that we are going to have dual identical services during Lent. The choir has been very gracious and agreed to sing at both services during the trial period. Paul suggested that we can all help by personally inviting a young family to a worship service or one of our activities. Susan Sayre mentioned that she does not see our ad in the *Orange County Register*; Paul agreed that we need to step up our advertising. He has scheduled a meeting with Dawn Price, Chair of Outreach, in two weeks to further discuss this. Roseanne Landis suggested putting an invite in Welcome Wagon packets since they visit all new families.

Anne Rosse asked for a motion to adjourn. Pastor Paul gave the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 1:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Shaffstall, Clerk
Ministries Board