

UUSMC Mid-year Congregational Meeting 1/24/20210 – 11:00-12:00 AM

Greg opening – chalice lighting

John Springer – welcome

The board Revision of plans due to uncertainty – decisions have been shared in e-blasts.

The mid-year congregational meeting is a forum for congregational questions – questions can be submitted via Zoom chat function.

John discussed Covid 19 – the board objective is to return to in-person services as soon as it is safe, with assessment based on Delaware and UUA guidelines, and attention to what other churches are doing.

When ready, we will plan services with the worship team and get approval from the opening team.

Our budget assumes we'll be closed until at least 6/30.

The board's objective is to ensure preservation of the Society, with a fiscally conservative position and a social justice mission.

Bruce Koepcke presented on the endowment fund – this ties into an overall program of legacy giving or planned giving – beyond the pledge, beyond the plate. We have received substantial gifts in the past –

There are two types of endowment giving – direct purposeful gifts such as solar panels; undesignated gift. An endowment fund can enable long-term financial stability – the fund will be professionally managed via a link to the UUA – it is similar to buying shares – the money is managed in a socially responsible way. Our endowment fund is managed by the board. In severe emergencies, we can tap the principal, but the endowment is not intended as a rainy-day fund. We can specify endowment fund when submitting checks. There is a white paper on the web site explaining all processes around the endowment fund.

Ann Draper – Treasurer expressed an overriding message of gratitude. Budget reductions are due to lack of rental income and service auction, but expenses are also down due to building closure. We have reworked our projected budget with assumption that the building will remain closed; we are currently in line for a loss around \$3000. With the PPL loan, the forgiveness process is on hold, but finance committee is confident that loan will be forgiven in the long term; this loan amount is currently in the budget as a debit.

John on the Letter of Agreement: – Greg was part of update process and concurs with the updates – approval of changes requires majority vote of the congregation (not a quorum of meeting attendees).

LOA Questions – original agreement was written with UUA language that required majority of congregants to approve – part of changing the LOA now is to revise this language so that future votes are easier.

Is there a time limit to voting? Next week – reminders will be sent tomorrow.

Is there no limit to the accrual of sabbatical time? What is limited is how much time can be taken within a period: “No more than six months of sabbatical leave may be used within any twelve-month period.”

[https://www.uua.org/files/pdf/u/uua.uuma\\_recommended\\_ministerial\\_agreement\\_for\\_full\\_time\\_lead\\_senior.solo\\_ministries.pdf](https://www.uua.org/files/pdf/u/uua.uuma_recommended_ministerial_agreement_for_full_time_lead_senior.solo_ministries.pdf)

Greg's plan is to postpone sabbatical until after pandemic.

Questions on endowment – will board need congregational approval to use principle? It's not in writing but seems like best practice.

Are donations tax-deductible? Yes

Do we accept stock as gifts? Yes. We sell the stock through our bank and convert it to cash.

Reminder that new board members will be needed in June.

Additional questions can be submitted to Joe Snader in his role as Board Secretary.

From the Zoom Chat. Responses added later in the minutes are underlined.

11:05:15 From Rev Greg to Everyone : Documents in support of the meeting:  
<https://www.uusmc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020-2021-Mid-Year-congregational-meeting.doc-Copy.pdf>

11:19:35 From Jamie to Everyone : Would the board need congregational approval in order to use any of the principle from the endowment fund?

This would be considered best practice.

11:21:38 From Lemaine Peo to Everyone : Great explanation! Endowment funds are very helpful for nonprofits. I worked in nonprofit management for years and we always appreciated being able to count on the interest from our endowments in our budget process.

11:24:38 From Rev Greg to Everyone : Financial info and Endowment paper included in the meeting docs: <https://www.uusmc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020-2021-Mid-Year-congregational-meeting.doc-Copy.pdf>

11:28:25 From Judy Pappenhagen to Everyone : Greg, Can you mention that we will need a few new board members starting July 1 and that I am a contact. Please ask people to indicate interest.

11:28:51 From sjklu to Rev Greg (Direct Message) : Are donations to the Endowment Fund tax deductible?

Yes

11:29:21 From Amy White to Everyone : FYI: The email with link to vote was sent on January 17.

11:30:22 From Lemaine Peo to Everyone : Do we accept stock for the endowment?

Yes, the stock will be converted to cash so it can be applied to the fund.

11:31:00 From Judy Pappenhagen to Everyone : How many votes do you need?

11:31:46 From Judy Pappenhagen to Everyone : Usually voting is a percentage of a quorum established at a meeting

11:32:54 From Lemaine Peo to Everyone : 58 voters, or 58 voters in favor?

58 votes in favor.

11:33:26 From helenspringer to Everyone : Is there a time limit for voting?

7:00 pm Sunday, Jan 31

11:33:59 From Adam Kegley to Everyone : sabbatical accrual unlimited?

The limit applies within a period.

11:36:40 From Anne Shuman (she/her) to Everyone : It is my understanding the link that you received in the email is unique to you.

11:37:24 From Lemaine Peo to Everyone : yes, Anne!