

Thomas Jefferson Memorial Church UU
Meeting Minutes

October 2, 2016

I. Call to order

Karen Ransom called to order the fall congregational meeting.

II. Quorum

106 members had signed in. With membership at 429, this constituted a quorum (10%) of members.

III. Greetings and Opening Words

Karen Ransom recognized those who assisted with the meeting, including Mary Beth Wiley for taking minutes, Jen Caswell-Colbert, who created the template and script for the meeting, Amy Wissekerke for orienting us to our work, members of the Racial Justice and Governance team whose work was presented, Doug Webbink as teller, Christina Rivera and Laura Horn as parliamentarians, and all members of the staff and board. Rev. Wikstrom provided the opening words.

IV. Agenda Approval

The agenda was approved with no additions or corrections.

V. Approval of minutes from last meeting

The minutes from the last meeting were approved as written.

VI. Treasurer's Report

Laura Horn read the treasurer's report for July and August. Please see attached.

VII. Public Witness

Kate Fraleigh presented "Congregational Public Witness in Support of Black Lives Movement and Racial Justice." She thanked the rest of the members of the Public Witness Team and presented the fact that the UUA voted in 2015 to support Black Lives Matter Movement. She movingly spoke of the reasons this is an important issue and of the many UUs who support civil rights locally and nationally. She then read the statement.

Jen Larimer Moved that the TJMC-UU congregation adopt the public witness statement, “Thomas Jefferson Memorial Church-Unitarian Universalist Congregation Public Witness in Support of the Black Lives Matter Movements and Racial Justice.”

Linda Dukes seconded this. Two people spoke for the statement and none spoke against it. The congregation was encouraged to sign up for volunteering and classes. Voting occurred via written ballots.

Breck Gastinger reported the results: Yes: 106 members and 7 non-members; No- 6 votes; 1 abstention. Karen noted that there being an 80% vote in the affirmative, the motion was carried and that TJMC voted to adopt the long term public witness statement in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement and Racial Justice.

VIII. Governing Task Force’s (GTF) Mission and Plan

Presented by Donna Baker. She thanked the rest of the ad hoc committee that included Sally Taylor, Bev Thierwact, Jamie Reynolds, Lori Craddock, Pam Phillips. She provided information re the problems with the current council structure and the fact that volunteerism at the church has decreased. The GTF surveyed congressional leaders, studied other governance models, met with a UUA specialist and our current staff. They presented their recommendation in the bulletin and to the board.

The guiding thoughts are to streamline, reduce the number of meetings, and move toward task oriented groups (shorter times). Goals: Identify opportunities for people to engage, help lessen the burden on the board, and have shorter commitment times. The impact of these changes would mean: fewer board members, a change in how some committees work, and a change in bylaws to enhance flexibility. Governance structure needs to be adapted to meet current and future needs while increasing the opportunity for connection. Congregation conversations and meetings will be held with a vote taken at the Congregational Meeting in May of 2017.

IX. Closing Words

Provided by Christina Rivera.

X. Adjournment

Karen Ransom adjourned the meeting once it was moved and agreed upon.

Minutes submitted by: Mary Beth Wiley