

Minutes of the Church Council Meeting – March 16, 2023



David Stirrat, Moderator	√	Betsy Ashman, Finc'l Secretary	√	Rowena Abulencia, Clerk	√
Paul Brown, Treasurer	√	Cynthia Eggers, At Large	√	Keenan Foster, Care	√
Patty Foster, Care	√	Helen Heal, At Large	X	Jason Hubbard, Ex Officio	√
Al Martin, WSL	X	Barton Smith, WSL	√	Julie Traverso, VM	√

The meeting was held in person and called to order at 5:05 pm with Council members sharing their loss of a loved one, community concerns, anniversary celebration, and health updates.

A motion by B Ashman/seconded by B. Smith to approve the February 19, 2023 Council meeting minutes was approved.

CONSENT AGENDA REPORTS

- Note that Consent Agenda reports are Received not Approved. Voting to receive the Consent Agenda reports is an acknowledgement of their availability to the Council, not a specific approval of their content. A Council member may raise a fiduciary concern regarding content of any report before or after the Council votes to receive the Consent Agenda reports.
- Council members can post and update their own reports in the running agenda.
- Agenda and resulting final minutes that have been approved by Council at its monthly meeting will be posted by Marcella in the UCCP website. Rowena will send approved minutes to Marcella.
 - Motion by B. Smith and seconded by K Foster to accept the consent agenda reports: UCC Financials, Stewardship Capital Legacy Team, Care Branch, WSL was unanimously approved.

OTHER ACTION ITEMS:

1. Update on Let's Go, Let's Grow and Rejuvenation next steps. Discuss the pastor's offer to act as Project Manager and take action. Approve and accept recommendations from B&G/Rejuvenation groups and green light purchasing and timeline.
 - A motion by B Ashman/seconded by D. Stirrat to approve the offer of Pastor Jason to act as Project Manager.
Discussion ensued:
 - a. Concern re: time involved will take time away particularly Pastoral Care was brought up.
 - b. PJason's offer is to do this in his own time.as a congregant of UCCP.
 - c. Council needs to focus on this year to make sure that congregants are being appropriately cared for, huge need in our community.
 - d. Care Branch/PFoster needs members and grow this branch; this will be a separate discussion as we look into the future.

- e. There is need for official and written guidelines/job description of Project Manager position.
 - o Motion by DStirrat/seconded by JOTraverso to table the previous motion to approve Pastor Jason taking the Project Manager position was approved.
 - o Motion by JOTraverso/seconded by BAshman to accept and approve the amended budget as recommended by B&G/Rejuvenation report as written in BSmith's document presented at the 2nd Hour on March 5 was approved.
 - f. Link to the document here: [Rejuvenation Team Draft Budget](#)
- 2. Motion by JOTraverso/seconded by BSmith to approve updated In-Person Gathering Guidelines to include clause for Red Tier with possibility of indoor worship for holidays/special events
 - a. Motion to amend IPGT guidelines to include amended clause in the Red Tier opportunities for indoor worship to say: "Gatherings will be online or outdoor only, unless the In Person Gathering Team institutes highest level COVID safety protocols, approved by the Council, as a one time exception in order to gather for worship or other congregational ritual such as a funeral" was approved.
- 3. Future/Strategic Planning

Discussion on how the church council can facilitate long-term vision/future planning for UCC Petaluma. Ideally, at least half our time should be future focused.

 - a. Consider a sub-committee specifically focused on long term vision (11 council members is likely too many to get this work done.)

Strategic Planning Team:

 1. Vision (what they do) will come from the congregation
 2. Empower this team with limits to consult with every single branch of church
 3. Hold polling/listening sessions with congregation

P.Brown/CEgger/BSmith to meet and envision what the future SPT is and identify volunteers.
- 4. Plan and discuss upcoming Sabbatical
 - a. Sabbatical Team is working on this. Engage with and discuss current status of Sabbatical plan.
 1. PrJason's sabbatical starts on or about July 1.
 2. Sabbatical Team has variety of exciting offerings such as documentaries, social justice talks, 20- minute films to continue discussion into 2nd Hour.
 3. Engage the congregation in rest/rejuvenation during sabbatical.
 - b. This [Book Summary](#) on effective Sabbaticals will be a resource for Sabbatical Team & Council
 - c. Plan will be presented to Council at next April meeting.

5. Update on Breedlove Bequest

- a. Paul Brown and David Stirrat met with Thom Knudson, representative of the Talamantes/"The Trust". Discussion ensued on official name of church, deed and description of property, potential tax liability for the Talamantes and for the church in the short term, reappraisal of the property was at \$912,000. Property Taxes may be retroactive to time of death. Barton Smith is a resource and is empowered to clarify conflict of interest with him being a realtor and council member. **This will be an agenda item in April council meeting.**

Next Council meeting: Thursday, April 20 in Friendship Hall at 5:00 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 6:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Rowena Abulencia, Clerk

Pending Action Items 01/15/23	Owner (s)	Status (pending/in process/completed)
<u>Google Drive access: challenges /access/systematizing electronic documents.</u> All those not mentioned are "OK" with document access. HH BA PB AM Julie: BAB identified as the branch responsible	DStirrat/JOTraverso/ "BAB"	In Process
Action Items 02/19/23	Owner (s)	Status (pending/in process/completed)
Prepare draft of letter to congregation re: process to be sent out no later than Thursday, 2/23	DStirrat/JOTraverso	Completed
2nd hour conversation in three weeks, i.e., 3/5/23.	BAB?	Completed
Action Items 03/16/23		
P.Brown/CEgger/BSmith to meet and envision what the future SPT is and identify volunteers.		
RAbulencia to send pdf of approved minutes to be posted in UCCP website by Marcella	RAbulencia	Completed