

All-Congregation Meeting – Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashua

November 15, 2020

To Consider the Church Campus Vision Statement

Meeting held via videoconference due to COVID-19

Review Draft - Comments from the congregation to the [Clerk](#) are welcome until May 31, 2021

1. Registration of Voting Members online

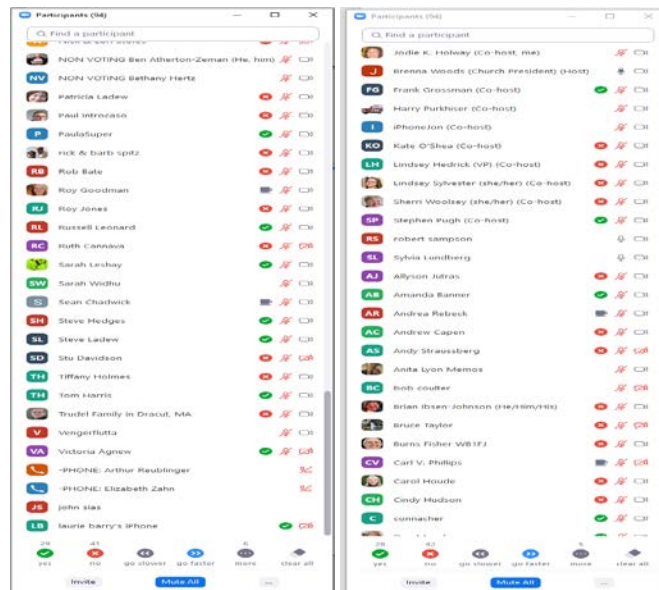
1. Attendees were welcomed and registered as they arrived via Zoom and telephone

2. Call to Order

1. President of the Congregation Brenna Woods called the meeting to order at 11:48 am
2. Certification of quorum, by Jodie K. Holway, Clerk of the Congregation
 - i. 92 members registered today, out of 277 members in [2019-20 Clerk's Report](#)
 - ii. Quorum is reached, as our [Bylaws](#) require 20% of membership
3. Reading of UUCN's Articles of Incorporation
4. Chalice Lighting by Lindsey Hedrick, Vice President of the Congregation

3. Framing the Meeting, by President Brenna Woods and Clerk Jodie Holway

1. Review of how to be recognized to speak, how to get help, how to vote
 - i. Participants on Zoom by computer and phone, and by voice-only
2. Practice vote on the controversial topic, "Is a hotdog a sandwich?"
 - i. **MOTION** to bring the question to a vote
 1. **MOVED** by Dan Murphy
 2. **SECONDED** by Andy Capen
 3. **FAILED** with 30 Yes, 44 No, 5 Abstentions – not a sandwich!



4. **Consent Agenda**, by Brenna Woods
 1. **MOTIONED** to accept the minutes of the 2020 UU Nashua Annual Meeting
 - i. **MOVED** by Dave Hudson
 - ii. **SECONDED** by Brian Ibsen-Johnson
 - iii. **PASSED** with 75 Yes, 0 No, 5 Abstentions

5. **Building Our Vision Presentation**, by Kate O'Shea, Lindsey Sylvester, Steve Pugh
 1. Reading of our [Church Campus Vision Statement](#)
 - i. We are a welcoming community of faith that works to dismantle oppression and privilege within our congregation by removing obstacles to entering and using our campus. To this end, our campus is accessible to all by including the elements needed for our programs and services to meet various accessibility needs. Our campus provides a clear welcome, offering a sense of warmth, belonging, acceptance, and safety to all who pass by or enter our spaces.
 - ii. In our worship spaces we balance honoring our past with the flexibility needed for the diverse use and changing needs of our modern church, while inspiring wonder, authentic connection, courageous community, and love in action.
 - iii. We are good stewards of the Earth, helping to combat climate change by working to limit our use of energy, using sustainable materials, and striving to attain carbon neutrality.
 - iv. We effectively use technology to provide better access, enable many forms of communication throughout and beyond our buildings, and allow for greater flexibility for all. We have appropriate physical systems to efficiently do the work of our mission.
 - v. In order to know our authentic UU Nashua identity, we honor those who helped create our story while embracing change in ourselves as we serve as stewards for our future. We honor the heritage of our campus, which serves as a visible connection to our past and our future.
 2. **MOTIONED** to accept this Church Campus Vision Statement
 - i. **MOVED** by Jon Lasselle in the name of Bob Sampson
 - ii. Bob Sampson is present virtually today, thanks everyone for this meeting
 - iii. **SECONDED** by Brian Ibsen-Johnson
 3. Question from Jeff Epstein: about the word "Campus" in the statement's title, does this mean the statement is restricted to the building campus? We hope it's temporary to do everything electronically but this is what we're doing nowadays.
 - i. Answer from Lindsey Sylvester: Yes, this vision statement is about the physical campus, the buildings, for the purpose of working with architects etc.
 4. Question from Arthur Reublinger: Overall Nashua is revamping. Have we been in touch with Mayor Jim Donchess about how our plans might mesh with that?
 - i. Answer from Lindsey Sylvester: Not yet, this is only the vision statement.
 5. Comments from Bob Keating:
 - i. He appreciates all this planning six years in advance for our birthday.
 - ii. He has concerns about size and scope of the vision statement. Some pieces of this statement are needs, others are wants. Has not heard any monetary figure

- yet but at some point \$1m was rumored. Wonder about the impact on our members, especially in this unprecedented time of pandemic, whether to ask their household to be not only medically but financially impacted. People may feel pressured to contribute: a cost of \$1m is \$5K per each of 200 households.
- iii. We've been in the pandemic for 8 months without a physical church, this is a good time to think about the future which will surely bring more emphasis on virtual and technological investments, not solely on physical.
 - iv. Possibly there is another way of commemorating our 200th anniversary, some members with interest in Social Justice were in support of a capital campaign that could also have a lasting impact on our community beyond our doors.
 - v. Overall he does not wish to add more dissention in these divisive times, but neither does he want to just go along to get along and be silenced. He will abstain from voting in this thoughtful process, and he appreciates everyone's hard work on these issues.
6. Comments from Burns Fisher:
 - i. If we do believe in this vision, it is fair to vote in favor of it today;
 - ii. Then after we get input from an architect we can fine-tune what we truly want do and what we truly decide to spend money on.
 7. Comments from Lindsey Sylvester:
 - i. Thanks to both Bob Keating and Burns Fisher for sharing their feelings and thinkings. The Building Our Vision team has had lengthy and varied discussions; and these are good contributions and the thinking will continue.
 - ii. The BOV team noted that this pandemic is affecting different people in different ways. This statement was crafted WITHIN the pandemic, taking into account the things we've learned that we do need in this pandemic.
 - iii. BOV team is definitely thinking about how our campus today does already serve our larger community and how it'll continue to do so. We feel that UU Nashua is an important piece of the life of Nashua, and hope it will continue and even broaden. And meanwhile, while listening to these considerations and more during the deep listening sessions with our members, we understood also that there is much about the physical building that we dream for.
 8. Question from Dan Murphy, as we approach the vote: is this the only vote today?
 - i. Answer from Lindsey Sylvester: Yes.
 9. **MOTION** to call the vote and bring discussion to an end
 - i. **MOVED** by Russ Leonard
 - ii. **SECONDED** by Burns Fisher
 - iii. **PASSED** with 73 Yes, 7 No, 2 Abstentions
 10. Vote to accept the Church Campus Vision Statement as originally read above
 - i. **PASSED** with 82 Yes, 1 No, 3 Abstentions

6. Adjournment and Chalice Extinguishing

1. **MOTION** to adjourn this meeting
 - i. **MOVED** by Andy Capen
 - ii. **SECONDED** by Sean Chadwick

iii. **PASSED** with 77 votes Yes, 1 vote No

Agenda for Congregational Meeting - November 15, 2020

Unitarian-Universalist Church of Nashua

November 15, 2020

Time	Agenda Item	Presenter
11:30	Admission into Zoom meeting	Jodie Holway, Lindsey Hedrick, Harry Purkiser, Sherri Woolsey
11:45	Call to Order <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Certification of Quorum	Brenna Woods
11:50	Chalice Lighting	Brenna Woods
11:55	Framing the Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review minutes of the Annual Meeting - June 2020	Brenna Woods, Jodie Holway
12:00	Building Our Vision Team Presentation	BOV Team Members
12:30	Adjournment and Chalice Extinguishing	Brenna Woods