**WUU Special Congregational Meeting**

**A Vote on BOF Phase I of Facilities Expansion**

**Sunday, November 17, 2013**

Lola Warren, Board President opened the meeting at 12:45 P.M.

Kurt Williamson was introduced by Lola and he conducted the Chalice Lighting.

Lola offered a brief overview of the two steps recommended by BOF which constitute the reason for the meeting: (1) To hire an architect to provide options for expansion of our facilities. (2) To hire a UUA consultant who will address funding questions regarding the potential expansion.

Roger Guernsey presented a “From the Heart” message. As an architect, he designs spaces. Transforming spatial needs to actual spaces is what he does, and is his passion. His role is in guiding the BOF. He has recused himself from consideration as the architect to avoid any conflict of interest. Should Guernsey Tingle be among the firms bidding for the work as the architects for the expansion he will recuse himself from the vote on selection of the architect or design team in order to avoid any appearance of conflict of interest.

Allen Cooke made the following motion on the ballot. Peter Mellette seconded the motion.

**“Shall the congregation approve the decision of the Board to proceed with the next steps of Phase One by (1) Hiring an architect for preliminary planning and architectural design options, and  (2) Hiring our UUA consultant  to conduct a fundraising feasibility study? “**

The floor was then opened for discussion and questions.

Martha Elim asked if the architect hired for the initial work would be eligible for the final effort? Roger Guernsey confirmed that they would be eligible.

Bob Tschannen-Moran spoke in favor of the motion. He noted that he has trouble finding parking and inquired about any plans for parking? Linda Lane Hamilton responded that the architect would read the comments from the congregation, including those about parking, and that we would be consulting about this and other matters.

Raga Elim asked about the time frame? Les responded that the financial feasibility study would be completed within the next 6 months, and the next congregational meeting will be in April. Raga noted that he wants an enlarged bathroom.

Paul Luchsinger asked for the estimated cost of phase I? Lola stated that it would be $30,000.

Jane Nichols asked what the criterion would be in the vote for a “Yes” decision? Lola said it would be a majority.

Adam Geisler asked what efforts would be made to preserve green space. Lola responded that the ambience was seen as extremely important in the congregation’s comments from the Visioning Circles, and David Neiman stated that this would be one of the charges to the architect.

John Hochella raised a concern about the finances for expansion of facilities, in view of the fact that we have not even hired an LFD person for months. It would appear that he may believe the two topics are related to each other, i.e., that perhaps money has been shifted from the LFD position to help finance the expansion. Lola explained that we have the finances for the LFD person, but we have been held up by the Immigration Service.

Priscilla Caldwell asked if we have done a feasibility study. Roger explained that we will ask the architect to provide the cost of anything proposed, and we will need to select what we can afford. Priscilla was thinking of prioritizing all the suggestions and arriving at the top 10 or 12 and then publicize them. Roger indicated that was ongoing, and will continue in interaction with the architect. L. L. Hamilton reminded the meeting that BOF had written a report that summarized 5 priorities, which is available on-line.

Lee Hougen: Today’s vote has financial consequences. How much of the $30,000 do we have now? Les stated that we will need approximately $26,000 more.

Jessica O’Brien asked if we will get Low, Mid, and High estimates. Roger indicated that we will.

Joel Schiff stated that the completed project will be here a long time, and that we need good assumptions about the future.

Tina Allen noted that she has been here 22 years and has the impression that we are poor. For instance, we have 2 mortgages. Les noted that the UUA mortgage will be paid off next year and the SunTrust mortgage in March, 2015.

Dave Banks stated that we don’t need an architect and a financial campaign, but that we need to care for the facilities we have (or something close to that LV).

Hans Von Baeyer responded that we do need architects and a feasibility study. It is hard thinking of expansion in the abstract. We need concrete referents.

Lola noted at this point that we had passed the 20 minute mark, which was what had been previously suggested as the limit for discussion.

Roy Snyder encouraged a vote of “Yes”. It will help us get to a point of talking about future reality. Someone suggested that we not move forward until we have $50,000.

Martha Elim returned to Dave Banks’ point and thought that we may need a larger congregation to have more than one structure.

At 1:20, Lola indicated that it was time to cast ballots. Ballots were marked and collected. After approximately 10 minutes, the result was announced: There were 98 Yes votes, and 10 No votes, for a total of 108 votes. Although it was originally announced that 130 ballots had been distributed, that turned out to be in error, because of temporary confusion over the counting of absentee ballots. There were actually 113 ballots distributed, and only 5 people who received a ballot did not cast a vote. All who requested an absentee ballot voted.

Les noted, that the first presentation was last February, and now we have reached this point of voting to hire an initial architect to initiate the financial feasibility study.

Subsequent upcoming meetings will consider finances, and we will inform the congregation as we proceed.

If anyone wants to donate funds for the actions just voted on, checks should be written to the “Next Steps Fund”.

Lola announced the extinguishing of the chalice, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:35 P.M.

Minutes submitted by Larry Ventis, Secretary to the Board.