

(DRAFT 2019/05/14)

Pacific Central Chapter of the Unitarian Universalists Ministers Association

**2019 Spring Business Meeting Minutes**

May 9, 2019

Convened 9:15AM

Chris Bell and Mary Foran leads us in singing Welcome Table.

Voting on New Chapter Purpose Closed. Final tally is (Quorum= 35):

Online: Yes - 40, No- 2, Abstain - 4 (46 responses)

In Person: Yes - 13, No - 1, Abstain - 0 (14 responses)

Combined: Yes - 54, No - 3, Abstain - 4 (60 responses)

**Motion to amend bylaws to adopt a new purpose passed.** New Language is:

The purpose of the UUMA Pacific Central Chapter is to promote collegial relationships in which we can

listen deeply,

speak our diverse perspectives with care and humility,

share times of joy and transcendence, and

learn together how to minister well.

Core to fulfilling our purpose is dismantling white supremacy culture and other forms of oppression in ourselves, in our chapter, and in our various ministry settings.

Comments from online voting at the end of this document.

**Fall 2018 Business Meeting Minutes approved** with two abstentions.

Lucy Bunch presented a Treasurer's report

Last year: We had a \$5000 year budget with a \$15000 surplus

**We were successful in using up our financial surplus. Now we have \$1000 left.**

The Math: 15k (k = \$1000)

-1k UUJMC Donation

-1k Scholarships for Retreat

-1k Youth Ministry Facilitation Contribution

-1k UUMA Endowment Donation

-3k Unfilled Rooms at Spring 2019 Retreat

-7k Deposit for Retreat Center for Fall 2019

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1k

Discussion followed on

1) **Retreat center deposits tie up financial resources:**

Lucy Bunch negotiated a \$7000 deposit, less than what Earthrise/IONS is asking

Committed to 36 rooms in the fall

Not enough cash to make deposit for spring retreat  
Can we ask for earlier commitments to retreat? 6 months?  
Cost will not go up for attending in the Fall... yet.

2) **Budget for 2019 - 2020 is \$3500**

Income:

Dues are down from \$4.5k (2016 - 2017) to \$3k  
Get \$0.5k from UUMA

Expenditures:

Programming \$1.5k  
Scholarships/travel \$1.5k  
Supplies/operations \$0.5k

More discussion followed on dues and retreats, as retreat registration is typically what triggers people to pay dues.

Affirmation of Earthrise/IONS for

Living wage

Organic produce

Environmentally conscious practices

Geographically diversity of retreat location is desired but we lost a Spot at St. Francis

Don't duplicate research! Jeremy Nichols, Marcus Leifert, and Lucy Bunch have done it

Modeling shared ministry - Merging with DRE's?

There is precedent in PSWD, but this is not happening now.

Doesn't need to be an all chapter retreat twice a year.

Chapter retreats?

May be other ways to get people to pay dues...

Chris Bell suggested making a calling campaign for dues

As the discussion continued to focus on retreats, Sonya Sukalski presented a Vice President's Report focused on programming at retreats.

Of the people in the room, 18 want rooms next year

Program team wants to bring in Nancy McDonald Ladd

**Are we willing to add \$10 to bring in a nationally recognized speaker? -> Yes**

Question: Is it possible to collect chapter dues simultaneously as national dues?

Some may be willing to pay dues early.

Lucy Bunch will make a summary of financial status following the Spring 2019 retreat which will give the chapter a the financial reality for the Spring 2020 retreat.

A wise voice reminded: We are very creative and resourceful group, we don't need to rush conversation.

**A policy change asking retired ministers to indicate their desire to be considered “active” in the chapter by either paying \$15 in dues or requesting a waiver for \$0 dues was affirmed unanimously with no nays or abstentions.**

A notice of upcoming conversations about changes in the UUMA ethics guidelines was given.

Vail Weller reported on the Annual Program Fund. This included a long list of good things that the UUA does as well as current priorities in advancing UU values. She is trying to explain what the UUA does while getting the UUA out of the equation - because what we are doing is supporting one another.

New language: Honor = Fair Share → means honors covenant  
Expenditure is rising, giving declining. **PCD does better than the regional or national average in supporting other congregations through the UUA.** Her full report is available at <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1K2LmswbMiMmRKdJg37mNYHMxwKoUvy-1>.

Jan Christian reported that the Pacific Western Region anticipates many staff changes including: Diane Brinson, Christopher Wulff, James Kubal-Komoto, Jan Christian, Christine Robinson, and shared several leadership training opportunities.

Cat Ishida gave an update on the PCD and made a plea for delegates for its online business meeting and potential board members.

Lindi Ramsen and Leela Sinha reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee. **A slate is for the Executive Team is coming together and there will be an online vote at a later time.**

Much gratitude was expressed for all who contributed to the retreat and chapter leadership.

A few announcements and requests were made:

Waving in national leadership into agenda for retreat

Sign up for blog of the Commission on Institutional Change

Return name tag to box

Take a look at the list of upcoming events- especially the Starr King online meeting...

Please signing card for Bill Kennedy's wife Geri

Please sign cards for chapter leaders concluding their terms

Adjourned 11:15AM

### **Announcements and Upcoming Dates**

2019/05/11 1:00 - 3:00PM Presentation by Susan Bartlett Foote at Mission Peak UU - Social Justice Done Right in 1940's 50's Minnesota

2019/05/11 2PM - 3:30PM PCD Online Business Meeting  
2019/05/13 9:30AM & 5:30PM Starr King School for the Ministry Future Conversation,  
In person or Zoom 2019/10/25 - 10/27 Fall Retreat  
2019/05/18 6:30PM Minns Lecture by Colin Bossen & Anthony Pinn at UU San  
Francisco  
2019/05/25 2PM Bill Kennedy's Memorial Service at UU's of Redwood City  
2019/05/31 - 06/01 Regional Justice Training at UU Davis  
2019/06/08 3PM Ellie Kilpatrick Ordination  
2019/06/19 5PM Regional Reception at General Assembly  
2019/07/21 - 07/26 SpiritRest Silent Retreat (UU led - ask Lucy Bunch)  
2019/08/04 - 08 UUJMC Justice Leadership Summit & Camp  
2020/03/18 - 21 Finding Our Way Home

### **East Bay (And SF) Monthly Colleague Get Together - Host Sign Ups**

2019/07/04 - Christian and Kristen Schmidt  
2019/09/02 Sonya Sukalski - Labor Day Brunch & Hike at Lake Chabot

### **Comments on New Purpose Received During Online Vote**

10 expressions of gratitude

"I completely endorse the spirit which underlies this statement, but my problem with it is that it is formulated in a muddled way. The second sentence articulates an action agenda for the way (or one of the most important ways) in which we wish to fulfill the purpose and, as such, is logically not part of the purpose itself. In addition, it is unclear which part of the first sentence is being fulfilled by dismantling white supremacy (which, I re-emphasize, is a goal that I strongly and fully support). If we were to add a fifth "bullet point" to the first sentence---for example, "support and educate one another in working for justice in our churches, communities, and society,"---then it would clearly be that component of the chapter purpose for which the second sentence would be an action agenda. The basic problem of the proposed "purpose" is that it tries to articulate both a purpose and an action agenda, but calls the whole thing just a "purpose." That confusion and lack of internal coherence is why I am abstaining."

"Good enough, but I sure wish there was something in there about God/dess, or Love, or the Interconnected Web, or some other higher purpose/power that we're serving. This language doesn't even reference Unitarian Universalism (not that I conflate UUism and the Divine, mind you). What/Who are we serving together that transcends us all, which calls us into this community in the first place?"

"I wish that the new purpose statement explicitly included a commitment from the Board and members to be intentional in supporting Ministers of Color/Indigenous, especially newly called, to increase our chances for successful long term ministries. "

“Perfection prevents progress! Support the process and grateful for your amazing work!”

“Let me begin by saying that, although I don't know in detail, I can perhaps imagine all the work, and maybe even the anguish, that you and others on the Exec have put into crafting the various drafts that this proposal has gone through, and I certainly want to affirm your dedication to the process. I wouldn't want my concerns to be in any way seen as dismissive of care that I know you have for our chapter and collegial life.

Also, reading between the lines of your most recent email about this statement of chapter purpose, I have the impression that the "discomfort" that you allude to might point to concerns that some colleagues have with the whole issue of, or emphasis on, our agenda of dismantling white supremacy at all levels -- personal, chapter, communal, societal, etc. So I want to begin by saying that my own discomfort, if that is indeed the right word, is not that of that kind. I fully support the work that we are all (well, most of us, I hope) are pursuing to cleanse ourselves, our churches, and our wider circles of the scourge of white supremacy and its insidious toxicity.

My concern is rather with what may seem like a formal, structural, and even pedantic point, and it is one that bears some analogy to the famous "transient and permanent" distinction made by Theodore Parker in his so-often-cited 1841 sermon. It seems to me that our chapter purpose is something that ought to have, among other elements, a quality of permanence. That is, our chapter's purpose should be relatively unchanging across the winds of time and of social change. I would like to think that, even if white supremacy and all of its debilitating consequences could miraculously be wiped from our social fabric, the purpose of our chapter would remain unchanged. That's a idealistic example, but I raise it as a rhetorical possibility to make my point. White supremacy is indeed one of the greatest evils of our time, maybe even the greatest evil, underlying many other resulting evils (like capitalism), and has been for centuries. Dismantling it is certainly one of the most important challenges which our chapter purpose (as well as the purposes of our congregations and our UU movement as a whole) should call us to work on with all of the passion and steadiness that we can muster, but it is not, in itself, the purpose of our chapter, not the reason that we gather with one another. Our reason for gathering is deeper and more universal than that, and is, I think, already well expressed in the first sentence of the proposal.

All that said, I think I understand --- and share --- why we want to trumpet and proclaim as strongly and passionately as possible the place that dismantling white supremacy should occupy in our personal, collegial, and community lives at the present moment. I just think that the very meaning of "organizational purpose" is diluted by placing that proclamation within the statement of purpose. We want to affirm to commitment to one another. We need some better way of keeping the dismantlement goal before our eyes as a paramount concern, somewhat like we do with all the "Black Lives Matter" banners that hang over the doors of our churches. I would be all for finding some such alternative --- one that would be more constantly visible to ourselves and to others than being buried inside a statement of purpose, which has a much different function.”

### **Summary Comments Received During the Straw Poll on the Purpose (Mary Foran)**

No one expressed a desire for more chapter-wide discussion.

