

Minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting 12/12/2021

The meeting was called to order by the Vice President of the Board, Dan Wright, at 11:12 am. Dan Goss was installed as Parliamentarian. Janet McFarland was Secretary. George Guillermo was timekeeper. Registrars were Dan Wright and Claudia Morgan.

Claudia Morgan, member of the Board, read the Covenant of the First Unitarian Church of Oakland. Vice President Dan Wright instructed the congregation how to participate and how to vote via zoom.

Meeting Secretary Janet McFarland announced that a quorum was achieved. Board policy requires 51 members/25 percent of the membership, to be present to achieve a quorum. Quorum was achieved.

Donna Fujioka moved to elect Dennis Rowcliffe as meeting moderator. The nomination was seconded by Lucia Savage. The vote was 72 for, none opposed or abstaining. The moderator, Dennis Rowcliffe, reviewed the agenda and read the Rules of Order.

Noemi de Guzman reviewed the process the church has been engaged in leading to the vote to adopt the Eighth Principle. Noemi made the motion to adopt the 8th Principle as proposed. The text is below: .

- Motion: I move that the First Unitarian Church of Oakland affirm and promote, in addition to the seven Principles of the Unitarian Universalism Association, an eighth Principle: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.

John Shinnick seconded the motion. There was a brief comment period. Dan Wright and Claudia Morgan worked to resolve the actual number of members present. The number present was confirmed to be 73. This information was transmitted to the Secretary who informed the moderator.

One comment was a question by Penny Peak asking what we thought would be changed by adoption of the Principle. Pastor Ninan Soto responded with examples of how our actions might be different. After a few more comments, Laurel Eggenberger made a motion to call the question. The motion was seconded by Suzanne Van Houten. The motion passed with 66 votes.

Accordingly, the vote on the 8th Principle was taken and passed with 72 yeses. The 73rd person present on the zoom meeting did not vote either way. As such, it was counted as a no vote. The motion was passed with nearly 99% of the vote. The meeting was closed with a prayer and adjourned.

Submitted by Janet McFarland, Meeting Secretary

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