

UUCS Congregational Meeting
May 31, 2020

1. A special meeting of the UUCS congregation was held on-line via Zoom on May 31, 2020. There were 46 members in attendance, which met the requirements for a quorum. We have 87 members and need 30% to establish a quorum.
2. The primary objective for the meeting was to approve the by-law changes that:
 - Gives the board the ability to conduct online congregational meetings, including the annual meeting, when the situation warrants (such as the Covid-19 lockdown)
 - Provides for member voting via online means, when online meetings are held, and
 - Provides for delaying the annual meeting beyond the current June 10 deadline, when necessary
3. Previously, ballots were mailed and emailed to members to submit their votes. A total of 50 ballots were collected at the church mailbox and at the church. All 50 ballots voted to approve the by-law changes.
4. Zubair discussed the budget situation for the coming year. As a result of declining pledges and reduced subtenant rent payments, we will not have funds to retain our current lease. We have established a facility search committee to look at alternatives to our current facility and recommend options. The committee is comprised of: Rev Aileen, Mark Lorenz, Paul Roche, Lisa Winter, Terry Dick, and Bill Roman. They will be providing status back to the congregation periodically. Zubair and Rev Aileen indicated that we will hold cottage meetings to allow members to share their thoughts and feelings about leaving the current facility.
5. During the meeting, the attendees were separated into virtual meeting rooms to discuss the proposed by-law changes. Some of the comments/questions were:
 - Did the board consider voting using on-line means, such as a doodle poll? Reston UU is using some sort of online voting. **Answer:** No, the board did not consider online voting. Our preferred means for making decisions is through face-to-face meetings. The online meetings were meant for situations, such as the Covid-19 pandemic, where we can't meet in person
 - The online meetings are difficult to moderate to allow all voices to be heard. Zoom does provide for "raising your hand", but isn't accessible for those phoning in
6. Action – assess disenfranchisement of members due to technology via a survey. Determine and implement options to resolve