

Special Membership Meeting
Unity of Santa Barbara
February 24, 2018
MINUTES

- 1. Call to Order** This Special Membership Meeting of Unity of Santa Barbara was called to order to Board of Trustees President MaryJo McGrath at 10:00 a.m.

- 2. Opening Prayer** The opening prayer was given by **Catherine Weissenberg.**

- 3. Selection of
Chairman Pro
Tem** The President of the Board of Trustees indicated that the Board of Trustees and those who requested this Special Membership Meeting had agreed that the church would be best served if this meeting was presided over by an impartial non-member.

She then introduced Dr. Leonard M. Young, a professional registered parliamentarian for almost 30 years and the parliamentarian for Unity Worldwide Ministries.

The Board recommended that the assembly approve Dr. Leonard M. Young to serve as the presiding officer of this Special Membership Meeting.

The question was put on allowing Dr. Young to preside and it was approved by the necessary majority vote.

At this juncture, the Board President relinquished the Chair to Dr. Leonard Young.

- Thank You and
Introduction** Dr. Young introduced himself and thanked the assembly for the confidence they have showed in him by approving him as the chairman pro temp of the meeting.

- Appointments of
Committees** To assist the assembly with its work today, the Chair appointed the following persons to the committees indicated:

Secretary: Joan Kershaw

Credentials Committee and Tellers' Committee:
Leonard Young, Chairman

Marilou Rivera, Vice Chairman
Chris Alderman
Helen Louise Azzara
Bonnie Dutton
Bonnie Ladd
Kristen Meadows

Timekeepers:

Bonnie Brandt
Robin Lynn Jacobs

**4. Report of the
Credentials
Committee and
Establishment of
Quorum**

The **first item of business in order** was to establish the number of Active Members who are present so that we know the number of persons present who are eligible to vote.

In order to establish who was eligible to speak and vote in the meeting, a Credentials Committee of seven (7) persons was appointed prior to this meeting. This committee consisted of three persons selected by the Board President and three persons selected by those who have requested this Special Meeting. Dr. Young was appointed to serve as the Chair of the Credentials Committee

**Presentation of
Credentials
Committee Report**

Dr. Young then read the following report of the Credentials Committee:

Attached is the list of the Active Members of Unity of Santa Barbara who are present at this Special Membership Meeting and who, therefore, may vote during the meeting. Each of these voters has been issued a bright red voter's card.

As of 10:00 a.m. there are 135 voters present.

**Approval of the
Credentials
Committee Report**

At this juncture, the chair recognized **Marilou Rivera**, a member of the Credentials Committee, who moved the following motion:

On behalf of the Credentials Committee, I move that the roll of the voting members just presented be the official roll of the voting members of this Special Membership Meeting with the proviso that the Credentials Committee may make further reports as necessary during this meeting.

The motion was voted upon and approved by the required majority vote.

**5. Adoption of
Special Rules of
Order for this
meeting (see
attached)**

The next item of business in order was consideration of the proposed Special Rules of Order for this meeting.

The Chair explained that the Bylaws of Unity of Santa Barbara indicate that the current edition of ***Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*** would serve the parliamentary authority for your meetings. Further he explained that it is customary at meetings like this for the assembly to adopt a set of Special Rules of Order that in some way modify what is in ***Robert's*** and tailor these rules to the specific needs of the assembly.

The Chair then drew the attention of the assembly to the reverse side of the agenda which was distributed when members checked in and received their voter's card.

The Chair further indicated that the Board of Trustees and those who have requested this meeting had reviewed these proposed Special Rules of Order and had agreed that they will be helpful to the management of the business that will come before this meeting.

**Presentation of
Special Rules of
Order by the Chair**

The Chair then briefly reviewed the following standing rules:

1. A Credentials Committee of seven persons chaired by a professional registered parliamentarian shall facilitate the establishment of how many Active Members are present for this Special Membership Meeting. Each active member present shall check-in with the Credential Committee and receive a voter's card prior to the meeting being called to order. Late arrivals will be given the opportunity to receive a voter's card just prior to the vote to recall the board of trustees.
2. Only active members of Unity of Santa Barbara shall have the right to speak in debate and to vote at this Special Membership Meeting.
3. Active members who wish to speak during the meeting shall go to a microphone and wait to be recognized by the Chair. Upon recognition, each member shall give his/her name for the record.
4. The Secretary shall make an audio recording of the meeting to assist with the preparation of the minutes. This recording shall be kept until the minutes of this Special Membership Meeting are approved at the next Regular Membership Meeting. A copy shall be provided to the Chairman Pro Tem after the conclusion of the meeting.
5. No active member may speak more than once nor longer than two (2) minutes on any debatable motion or resolution.
6. The total time for debate of the resolution to overturn the decision of the board shall be limited to 30 minutes, unless extended by the assembly by a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote. Debate on the motion to remove the Board of Trustees shall be limited to 10

minutes, unless extended by the assembly by a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote.

7. The Chair shall assure that the floor alternates as much as possible between those speaking for and those speaking against the resolution.
8. At the conclusion of the time allotted for debate on each resolution for which this Special Membership Meeting has been called, the Chair shall call for a time of silent meditation and prayer before the vote is taken.
9. The votes on the two resolutions for which the Special Membership Meeting has been called shall be taken by written ballot. A two-thirds (2/3rds) vote of those Active Members present and voting shall be necessary for the adoption of the resolution to overturn the decision of the board and to remove the board members.
10. A tellers committee shall be appointed by the chair to count the ballots and report to the Chair the results of the two votes. A professional registered parliamentarian shall be appointed as chair of the teller's committee.
11. If the resolution removing the board is adopted, the assembly shall proceed immediately to nominations and election of six persons to serve on an interim Board of Trustees.
12. At the conclusion of nominations, each nominee may introduce themselves and speak concerning their candidacy for up to two (2) minutes.
13. If the current board is removed and an interim board is to be elected, nominations shall be taken from the floor. If there are six or less nominees, these nominees may be elected by a vote in which each voting members raises his/her voter's card. If there are more than six (6) nominees, the vote shall be by written ballot and a plurality vote (those receiving the most votes) shall be considered sufficient for election. According to the provisions of the bylaws of Unity of Santa Barbara, if the board is removed no more than half of them may be reelected to the interim board. In the election if there are more than half of those who would be elected who were removed board members, only the top three shall be elected with the other three positions being elected by the next three receiving the highest number of votes.
14. Voting members may receive a ballot upon presentation of their voter's card to the tellers committee who will then issue them a ballot.
15. All ballots must be individually placed into the ballot boxes by each voter. Ballots shall not be passed to others but placed individually by each voting member into a ballot box.
16. On the ballot for the election of interim board members, each voter may vote for **NO MORE THAN 6 persons**. If any individual ballot contains more than six (6) votes, that ballot shall be considered illegal and none of the votes on the ballot shall be credited to any candidate.

Motion to Approve the Special Rules of Order

The Chair then recognizes **Derek Carlson, a member of the Board of Trustees** who moved the following motion:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I move that the proposed Special Rules of Order for this meeting be approved.

Vote on Motion to Approve the Special

There was no debate offered and so the vote was taken and the standing rules were approved by the required two-thirds vote.

Rules of Order

6. Approval of Agenda

The next item of business in order was the approval of the proposed agenda for this meeting. The Chair indicated that since the agenda was determined by the petition that called for this meeting and the notice previously sent to all Active Members, it could not be amended.

There were no objection and the agenda was approved.

Declaration of Official Organization

With the adoption of the Credentials Committee Report, the approval of the Special Rules of Order, and the acceptance of the proposed agenda, the Chair declared that the Special Membership Meeting of Unity of Santa Barbara was in order and ready to transact business.

7. Statement of Purpose:

The Chair indicated that the purpose of this Special Membership Meeting, for which notice had been given, was to consider two resolutions proposed by at least 10 Active Members. These resolutions read as follows:

Resolved, That the decision of the Board of Trustees of Unity of Santa Barbara made on January 31, 2018 to terminate Rev. Larry Schellink as Senior Minister at the expiration of his current contract on March 31, 2018 and place him on immediate paid leave during a 60-day notice period be and here is rescinded.

Resolved, That all of the members of the current Board of Trustees of Unity of Santa Barbara be removed as is provided in Bylaws Article 3.04(i) and Article 5.05(c).

The Chair also indicated that the Assembly should note that if the second motion is adopted, that the following part of the notice of this meeting will come into play:

Notice is further given that should the above resolution be adopted removing the members of the Board of Trustees, the Special Membership Meeting will then proceed to immediately elect an interim Board of Trustees according to the provisions of Section 5.05 (c) of Unity of Santa Barbara.

8. Resolution to Override the Decision of the Board to terminate Rev.

The Chair then recognized **Jim Kwako** who moved the following motion:

Resolved, That the decision of the Board of Trustees of Unity of Santa Barbara made on January 31, 2018 to terminate Rev. Larry Schellink as

**Larry Schellink as
Senior Minister.**

Senior Minister at the expiration of his current contract on March 31, 2018 and place him on immediate paid leave during a 60-day notice period be and here is rescinded.

Speaking Instructions The Chair then gave speaking instruction as follows:

You will notice that there are six (6) floor microphones in the room this afternoon and that each of them is numbered.

For the purpose of debate, the Chair will designate microphones one (1) three (3) and (5) five for speakers who wish to speak in favor of the adoption of the motion.

The Chair will designate microphones two (2) four (4) and (6) for those speakers who wish to speak against the adoption of the motion.

So if you wish to speak to this resolution, you will need to go to the appropriate microphone and wait to be recognized.

The Chair will attempt to alternate the floor between those on each side of the pending resolution.

When you are recognized to speak, please kindly give us your name and your Voter I.D. number which you will find in the CENTER of your voter's card. Please provide this information before you begin your speech and please direct all your comments or questions to the Chair.

As read earlier from the Bylaws, only Active Members who have a voting card will be eligible to speak in debate, unless the assembly gives permission by a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote).

In addition, the Chair reminds the assembly that Special Rule of Order number five (5) indicates that no active member may speak more than once, nor for longer than two (2) minutes, on any debatable motion.

And finally, the Chair reminds the assembly that Special Rules of Order number six (6) limits the total time for debate to thirty (30) minutes on any of the two resolutions, again unless the assembly should vote to lengthen debate by a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote.

Debate

The Chair then recognized Jim Kwako, the mover of the resolution now before the assembly, to give the first speech.

Further debate followed.

**Supplemental
Credentials
Committee Report**

At the end of the 30 time for debate, before the Assembly proceeded to the vote on the resolution before the assembly, the chair inquired if there was anyone present who was an Active Member of Unity of Santa Barbara and who was therefore entitled to vote, who had not checked in with the Credentials Committee yet and received your voter's card?

Registering Late Arrivals	There were so the assembly stood at ease while the Credentials Committee signed the new arrivals in.
Approval of Supplemental Report	The Vice Chair of the Credentials Committee then gave the supplemental report which indicated that there were then 142 voters present.
Unanimous Consent	<p>The Chair asked if there was any objection to the approval of this supplemental report of the Credentials Committee which established the number of eligible voters present at 142?</p> <p>No objection was offered and the Chair indicated that the supplemental report was approved.</p>
Reflection	The Chair then called on <u>Catherine Weissenberg</u> for a moment of reflection prior to voting.
Vote on the Resolution	The Chair restated the question and indicated that its adoption would require a two-thirds vote.
Voting Instructions	<p>Voting instructions were given after which the ballots were distributed, and the polls were open so that ballots to be cast.</p> <p>After everyone voted who wished to do so, the Chair indicated that the polls were closed and asked the Tellers to retire and count the ballots.</p>
Recess	While the ballots were being counted, the Assembly stood in recess at 11:35 a.m. to reconvene at the call of the Chair.
Reconvene	The Chair called the meeting back to order at 11:52 a.m.
Report of the Tellers	The Chair then read the report of the Tellers' Committee as follows:

Report the of Tellers

On the vote concerning Overturning the Decision of the Board of Trustees:

Number of Eligible Voters: 142

Number of Ballots Cast: 139

Necessary for Adoption: (2/3rds Vote) 93

Those in Favor Overriding the Board's Action: 94

Those Opposed to Overriding the Board's Action: 45

There were 0 Invalid Ballots:

The Chair ruled that there were two-thirds (2/3rds) in favor of the motion, it was adopted, and **the decision of the board was overridden.** The Chair then directed the Board to enter into negotiations with Reverend Schellink on a new contract as Senior Minister.

**9. Resolution to
Recall the Board**

At this juncture, the Chair recognized **Aaron Ritter** who moved the following motion:

Resolved, That all of the members of the current Board of Trustees of Unity of Santa Barbara be removed as is provided in Bylaws Article 3.04(i) and Article 5.05(c).

Debate

The Chair then recognized **Aaron Ritter**, the mover of the resolution now before the assembly, to give the first speech.

10 minutes of debate followed.

**Supplemental
Credentials
Committee Report**

The Chair asked if there were any Active members eligible to vote who had not checked in with the Credentials Committee to receive a voter's card. There were none and so the number of voters remained at 142.

**Time for Meditation
and Prayer**

The Chair again called on **Catherine Weissenberg** to lead a moment of reflection.

**Vote on the
Resolution**

The Chair restated the motion before the assembly after which the ballots were distributed, the polls were opened and ballots were cast. The Chair then closed the polls and asked the tellers to retire and count the vote

Recess The Chair then recessed the Assembly at 12:22 p.m. to reconvene at the call of the Chair.

Reconvene The Chair called the meeting back to order at 12:34 p.m.

Report of the Tellers The Chair then read the report of the tellers as follows:

Report the of Tellers

On the vote concerning the Resolution to Remove the Entire Board of Trustees:

Number of Eligible Voters: 142

Number of Ballots Cast: 127

Necessary for Adoption: 85

Those in Favor of the Motion: 91

Those Opposed to the Motion: 36

There were 0 Illegal Ballots:

The Chair ruled that there were two-thirds in favor of the motion, it was adopted, and **the Board was removed.**

10. Election of Interim Board

Since the assembly voted to recall the entire board of trustees, the Chair announced that the next item of business in order was the election of an interim board of six persons.

Six (6) positions

The Chair indicated his understanding that there were six (6) positions that were available to be filled and that there are six (6) persons who were nominated by the Nominating Committee to be present to the Annual Meeting on March 4, 2018. The Chair suggested if the assembly wished to do so, by a majority vote they could vote to approve this list of nominees as the Interim Board of Trustees.

The Chair then took a vote by raised hand and the six nominees wee approved as the Interim Board of Trustees.

Closing Prayer

Since there was no further business that might properly come before this meeting, the Chair called upon **Catherine Weisenberg** to give the closing prayer,

Adjournment

After the closing prayer, the Chair indicated that there being no further business, the Special Membership Meeting of the Unity of Santa Barbara was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Joan Kershaw, Secretary Pro Temp