

St. John's Unitarian Universalist Special Congregational Meeting Minutes
 April 19, 2020 11AM remote due to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Board Members Presiding: : Matthew Cowperthwait, President; David Roth, Immediate Past-President;
 Members' count: 66 signed-in voting members
 Parliamentarian: Bill Gordon

Topic	Discussion/Action	Motion	Made by: 2 nd by:	Vote
Reading and opening	11:05 AM			
Opening Comments	<p>Matthew and David welcomed members to the online format, required due to the COVID-19 quarantine and shut-down. The purpose of the special meeting is for St. John's to consider funding made available by the US Small Business Administration SBA to help organizations deal with economic effects of the COVID-19 shut-down. This loan would potentially exceed the amount of further financial obligation that the board may incur without congregational approval, as per our Bylaws (Art IX Sec 4).</p> <p>Matthew reviewed meeting format, procedures for online comments, other considerations for video conferencing. Clarified how voting will occur online, and our overall agreement that everyone will work to ensure Robert's Rules spirit and intent, in that everyone is heard, and the process is fair.</p>			
Quorum	Verified quorum			
Review of Payroll Protection Plan	Matthew walked members through the powerpoint, now available at Member's Corner of the website, describing the Payroll Protection Program PPP, how it is managed by SBA, application process, what it can be used for, terms of the program. Discussion of the first round of funding exhausted, and likelihood that another round would be available. Applying now helps St. John's in the event this new funding occurs.			
Additional Discussion	Matthew continued with discussion of St. John's current financial position, considering drop in plate income, rentals and possibly pledges. Discussion of board's commitment to keep staff employed, and discussion of reserve funds (endowment) to help through emergency times, and how or if to use the endowment.			

Additional Discussion	members' questions continued, to clarify the facts and terms of the PPP, discuss our financial position overall, UUA position in support of UU churches applying for the program.			
	End of discussion of facts and terms.	Motion to accept the Board's recommendation to move forward with the Payroll Protection Program	Melissa Rowland, David Roth	
	Amended Motion	Motion to accept the Board's recommendation to move forward with the Payroll Protection Program, for the maximum amount permissible by law, not to exceed \$65,000	Bill Gordon, Joetta Prost	
	Discussion continued, and members spoke for and against the motion. Discussion of concerns for separation of church and state, discussion of equal protections clause, discussion of the uncertainty of how long until we return to normal church operations and how this will affect our financial position.			
	Motion to call the question. Online voting began, (more than one member at a single sign-in location voted in the chat function). Voice vote taken for members on the phone.		David Roth, Melissa Rowland	64 in favor 2 opposed
Adjourn	12:10 PM	Adjourn	David Roth, Monica Pellman	unanimous

Respectfully submitted,
Monica Pellman, Secretary