

**Meeting Minutes
Eden United Church of Christ
Special Congregational Meeting
Sunday, February 4, 2018**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order in the Sanctuary by Moderator Keith Smith at 11:05 a.m.

DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

Clerk Jan Bass clarified that we needed 34 members present for a quorum (25% of the membership) and that we have over 50 members present.

ELECTION OF TELLERS

Moderator Keith noted that we will be voting by paper ballot today and that we need two members to serve as tellers. Michael Freed & Alliene Turner were nominated.

MSC to appoint Michael Freed and Alliene Turner as tellers.

2018 EDEN AREA FOUNDATION GRANTS REPORT – AMENDED

On behalf of the Eden Area Foundation, the Rev. Pepper Swanson reported that there was an error in the Grants Committee's report as presented at the Semi-Annual Congregational meeting on October 29, 2017. Spectrum was listed as a recipient. The correct recipient it should have been SOS /Meals on Wheels. A corrected list of grant was distributed.

Pepper noted that the report from the Grants Committee does not require a vote. It is an informational report. There was no discussion.

OLIVER TRUST UPDATE

The Rev. Rob Parrish reported that the Point Eden Landing Property (also known as the Oliver Salt Plant & Ponds) sold in September 2017. The estimated value of the church's share in the sale is just under \$1.5M. The majority of the proceeds were received in November and December 2017. We expect to receive a residual amount after the taxes have been paid.

The proceeds received thus far were deposited in the Church's account at Morgan Stanley and are being managed by the Sharpes Group at Greystone Consulting, per action of the Church Council on July 9, 2017. (Brian Sharpes has been the financial advisor for the Eden Area Foundation since inception. Late last fall, he moved his team from United Banks of Switzerland to Morgan Stanley, and the Foundation moved with him.)

These funds are being managed in a manner consistent with the Eden Church Investment Policy. Copies of Investment Policy are available from the church office and are posted on the leadership page on the church website.

A projection of our investment portfolio performance, which was prepared by Brian's group yesterday, was distributed to the congregation for review and information. The projection assumes that the Church commences with the plan to invest 75% of our cash assets (\$2.5M) with Morgan Stanley and to spend reserves in accordance with our Strategic Plan.

Draws on our reserves are projected to result in a \$184,410 reduction in the value of the endowment at the end of the three-year, *if* there were no increase in income during the term.

While we would prefer not to experience any decline in the endowment, a failure to invest in Eden's future puts the Church at risk for greater losses. Also, the staffing plan better positions us to increase revenue through membership growth, grant funding, and more robust stewardship programs.

Athena Malloy asked if the financial projection includes all funds, including the sale of the Salt Plant & Ponds. Rob and Arlene reported that some of the funds are still locked up in other investments and that the funds will be migrated over a period of approximately 18 months. The Church Council's plan is to eventually have seventy-five percent of the church's cash assets managed by Brian's group.

Arlene noted that the projection is a conversation estimate showing the net effect on the Church's endowment if all three pastors and existing staff positions were fully funded for the next five years, and no new income were received. She noted that the length of the designated term proposed today is three years. She also reminded the Congregation that the Church Council and over 90% of the members present at the Annual Meeting in June 2017 approved the three-year term understanding that the use of some of our "savings" was necessary to sustain and build the Congregation well into the future.

This was a report. No action was needed.

ACTION ON THE RECOMMENDATION TO CALL THE REV. MARVIN LANCE WISER TO SERVE AS DESIGNATED TERM ASSOCIATE MINISTER FOR YOUTH, YOUNG ADULTS AND YOUNG FAMILIES, FOR A TERM OF 3 YEARS, BEGINNING JULY 1, 2018

Moderator Keith noted that the DTAM (designated term associate minister) search process emerged as result of our strategic planning process that began in 2015/2016. The DTAM position description was adopted in June 2017. The DTAM Search Committee was appointed in August 2017. Jana Aloo, Carlos Londoño and Jennifer Vetrovec were elected co-chairs.

Jana introduced the members of the Search Committee gave an overview of the search process. The Committee posted the position in August 2017. The first interview was held in October 2017. An in-person interview was held in November. The candidate met with a number of people and led a class on food insecurity in Alameda County, and facilitated

a service project at the Alameda County Community Food Bank. The Search Committee met on December 4, 2017 and unanimously decided to nominate the Rev. Marvin Lance Wiser to the Church Council and Congregation to serve as DTAM for Youth, Young Adults, and Young Families, for a period of three years, beginning July 1, 2018. Council unanimously approved the recommendation to extend a call to the Rev. Marvin Lance Wiser at their January 9, 2018 meeting.

The three youth who served on the committee were introduced. Izzy Walsh, Aubrey Freed, and Karen Victorio. Izzy described the way in which the youth group, ChYLIs, and college students were involved in the interview process. Aubrey and Karen spoke about the qualities and skills that they sought in the ideal candidate. Aubrey mentioned the need for a pastor who was well organized, easy to relate to, and able to inspire her and her peers. Karen reflected on the need to call a person who was linguistically and culturally competent to work with members of the congregation and community and to help foster stronger relationships across the generations and the various cultural groups in the Eden Area. All three said that they felt Marvin met these qualifications and that they were excited by the prospect of getting to work with him.

Jana and Carlos introduced Pastor Marvin and shared highlights of his key qualifications.

Keith noted that the Eden Church Bylaws require a super majority (80% of members present or more) voting in favor in order to call a pastor. He explained that the nomination of the Rev. Marvin Lance Wiser comes from the Search Committee and the Church Council, so it is a “privileged motion” and did not require a second.

Keith called for discussion of the motion. There was no discussion.

Keith asked if there are any questions of the candidate. There were none. The Candidate and his family were excused.

Keith called for any questions of the Search Committee or the Church Council. There were none.

Keith asked the members if they were ready for the vote. There was no option to moving forward. He called on the ushers to distribute the ballots, and asked members to mark their ballots “yes” if they were in favor of the candidate, or “no” if they were not. Ballots were marked and were collected by the tellers.

While the tellers were counting, various announcements were made of general interest.

The tellers returned with the count. The count was 59 Yes and 2 No. The motion carried. The co-chairs of the Search Committee were sent to the Nursery to inform Rev. Wiser of the result of the vote, and to invite him and his family back into the Sanctuary to so that he could respond to the invitation from the membership.

The Rev. Marvin Lance Wiser and his family returned to the sanctuary to rousing round of applause.

Keith offered the Rev. Wiser the opportunity to address the congregation. He spoke in both English and Spanish expressing words of appreciation, his willingness to accept the call, and his eagerness to begin work with us in July 2018.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:44 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Bass, Clerk