

Minutes of VUU Congregational Conversation

September 25, 2021

“Live” in Sanctuary and Zoom Meeting (68 people attending via Zoom)

11:35 AM. Meeting called to order by Mary Wolf-Francis, President of the Board of Trustees.

11:40 AM Capital Planning Committee Update was presented by Dee Anne McClenahan. The list of prioritized projects was presented including roof repairs, new AC units, moving Faith Formation nursery through 5th grade classrooms to the Sanctuary and tech center upgrades. One person commented that the technology center upgrades should receive higher priority. Most of the comments from the congregation were about the statement that was made during the update that moving the Faith Formation classrooms would likely reduce seating in the Sanctuary. Several people questioned whether this was the best course of action. Marci Beaudoin, Director of Faith Formation, stated that she was against this move since it would have a large impact on her staffing needs, having to give classes simultaneously in two locations.

DeeAnne responded that this was the list of priorities approved by the Congregation at the Annual Meeting in June. However, several people, including Chris Sar, stated that they thought we only approved the move of the classrooms to the existing Sanctuary if a new Sanctuary was going to be built for services. There was subsequent discussion about options to reduce the impact of this project, including going to two services and relocating the tech center footprint. However, it was clear that this topic needs to be discussed further with all stakeholders and members of the Congregation. DeeAnne agreed to follow up.

12:20 PM Mary Rothschild presented an update from the Ministerial Search Committee. We are on track to have a Congregational Vote to call a new Settled Minister to VUU on May 1, 2022. A 90% “yes” vote is needed to call a Minister, so it is very important for all VUU Members to participate in the selection process. Over 200 people participated in the Congregational Survey with results being presented at this meeting. The next step is to participate in a Cottage Meeting. See Happenings or contact Chris Sar at csartempe@gmail.com to participate.

12:35 PM Live meeting ended.

6:30 PM Douglas Campos-Outcalt and Kody Holmes of the VUU Covid Committee answered questions from the congregation via Zoom. One congregant asked whether a wedding and reception in the Sanctuary involving 100 people, with masks not being worn during at least part of the ceremony, would be possible. The Covid team expressed concern that this could be a “spreader” event and should probably be delayed until the case rate in Arizona is lower. Several other people were interested in resuming live choir singing. One person said that she knew of churches on the East Coast that were resuming singing by wearing “choir masks.” The Covid Committee representatives replied that they were unfamiliar with “choir masks” but would be happy to receive

information on them so that they can be evaluated. Other questions concerned whether upgrade to air flow patterns and filtration at VUU would help. The Covid Committee representatives said they would follow up on the questions asked this evening.

7:30 PM Covid meeting closed.

Reported by Tom Briggs, Secretary, VUU Board of Trustees
October 4, 2021