

NCNC-UCC Annual Gathering Business Meeting
June 16, 2018
2:30 – 5:30 pm

Begin: 2:37 pm

[Moderator Rev. Phil Konz, Pioneer Congregational UCC, Sacramento] Clarification: To say “I call the question” means to “close the debate” and needs a 2nd. Then we vote right away. When you call the question, you cannot enter into debate.

Resolution #1: UCC Constitutional Change.
Presenter: Rev. Liz Armstrong, Union Congregational Church - Angels Camp, Mtn Valley

Ratify the amendments to the UCC Constitution passed at General Synod. Needs 2/3rds (28 of 36) of conferences to pass. Three primary items of resolution read.

1. Changes in language
2. Full communion w/UCC of Canada wrt full ministerial standing in the US UCC
3. Changes in government (bundled together.)

Local / wider / justice & ministry will no longer have discrete executive ministers, but called associate ministers.

- Officers name change to be called “officers” (delete collegium)
- Covenanted ministries cannot participate through executive ministers; position removed.
- Ministers for the Board can be elected or appointed.

Questions of transparency, representation of UCC governance, communication (why not heard sooner and having more information), and point of trust of delegates.

[Rev. Alan O'Brien, Elkgrove UCC, Sacramento] Is there a necessity why they're bundled together?

[Rev. Liz Armstrong] Bringing UCC into Canada would not be questioned. Don't know answer.

[Michael Dack, Parkside Community UCC, Sacramento] What was the take on it as it was happening?

[Rev. Liz Armstrong] First time at Synod. Unsure how it will play out.

[Rev. Sharon MacArthur, Chinese Congregational Church - Berkeley, Bay] She was a delegate at Synod last year. Shared her experience with Synod. Makes official what many already thought had occurred. Believes those things in discussion will be in consultation with those ministries.

[Rev. Lloyd Schneider, Union Congregational UCC Angels Camp, Mtn. Valley] Stated his support.

[Roy Mosely, St. John's UCC, SF, Golden Gate] Spoke to the education and feedback components of the process of handling pieces of information. From committee to floor.

[Eppie Encabo, Faith Community UCC, Bay] What is the impact of UCC of Canada and the 2 denominational Global boards?

[CM Rev. Diane Weible, First Church Berkeley, Bay] Global ministries is separate and the executive for wider church is co-executor. Gives power to GM and President on how it will roll out. UCC with Canada has relationship like we have with DOC

[Rev. Alan O'Brien, Elkgrove UCC, Sacramento] Stated disagreement.

[Nancy Thursbee, Community UCC - Orinda, Bay] Why would this be mentioned? DOC is mentioned in our constitution.

[Roy Mosely, St. John's UCC, SF, Golden Gate] Don't know why they combined they bundled the 3 topics.

[Karen Rouutt, FCC Palo Alto, Santa Clara] Called the question. 2nd Lloyd Schneider. Motion carries.

Call the question to ratify by Phil.

In favor – 73 ← Is not 2/3rds. **We have ratified these changes.**

Oppose – 30

Abstain (no vote) – 18

121 total votes cast

[Rev. Michael Dack, Parkside Community UCC, Sacramento] Standing rule says we need 2/3rds voting and an abstention is a vote.

[Greg deGiere, Pioneer Congregational UCC, Sacramento] Had a question about point of procedure. Rescinded question; already addressed.

Resolution #2: "Follow me"

Presenter: Rev. Renie Stamm-Kirk, Community Congregational Church - Benicia, Bay

There were lots of pros/cons/questions during the discernment session. This came up at the local church. People in our local church have doubts and questions. Even with doubts, that we invite all to the table is important. We invite to the table those without baptism and statement of faith. What happens in wider church does not mean we have to do this at the local church. We want to have conversations around membership. Rev. Renie Stamm-Kirk gave her testimony in

conversation. Those who won't claim belief in "God" were denied membership. She was baptized as an infant and follows Jesus. So who is inside? Who is outside? What does it mean to actually follow Jesus? When they get baptized, it's their choice and not required for membership.

[*Mary Susan Ghast, Community Congregational UCC - Benicia, Bay*] Why is this a constitutional amendment? She's requesting additional language of how one becomes a member of a local church. In UCC, national constitution is not "imposed" onto local church. Constitution Paragraph 18 read. Further explanation offered. Sparking conversations strengthens our sense of identity. What happens if we do send this to the General Minister and President? If I goes there, it then goes to the next General Synod for discussion and rest of process.

[*Moderator Rev. Phil Konz, Pioneer Congregational UCC, Sacramento*] This is an administrative action that requires simple majority when time to vote.

[*Greg deGiere, Pioneer Congregational UCC, Sacramento*] In sub para D of para 11 – only apply to Christian communities of faith? **He moved to add Christian to other communities. Failed second.**

[*Amanda Sheldon, Loomis UCC, Sacramento*] We're moving towards a church where Jesus is optional to follow. She has found a place where she can claim her Jesus and have a progressive view. She wants to be in a place where she can be a follower of Christ. She wants to be explicitly Christian.

[*Rev. Jeff Spencer, Niles Discovery Church DOC UCC, Bay*] Propose amendments to A, B, and D. Refer to the triplicate copy.

[*Jan Swayne, Skyland Community UCC, Santa Clara*] Having a wide welcome is what has welcomed her into the UCC. It was a gigantic, real welcome.

[*Rev. Raj Rambob, Parkside Community UCC, Sacramento*] His primary concern is a "white-washing" of faith. The retention of our Christian identity important. We can already do this change in local church. So why do we need to bring this to the national level?

[*Greg deGiere, Pioneer Congregational UCC, Sacramento*] Stated in favor

[*Jeremy Johnson, FCC Tulare, Sequoia*] Moved to include "Jesus' way." Refer to the triplicate copy.

[*Rev. Renie Stamm-Kirk, Community Congregational UCC - Benicia, Bay*] She intentionally did not use "inside of the church" words, like "Jesus' way"

[*Kurt Sunderbruch, Community UCC - Orinda UCC, Bay*] He is Lutheran and UCC. He believes it's more important to focus on relationship and to get people there. Until they experience the people of the Body of Christ, they won't know what they're asking.

Vote by simple majority: Tie. Phil voted Yes. Amendment is adopted.

[Karen Routt, FCC Palo Alto, Santa Clara] Was there a process to resolve this in a local church. Renie talked to other clergy in the area and they were doing this ‘under the radar.’ This is a way to no longer do it under the radar.

[Moderator Rev. Phil Konz, Pioneer UCC, Sacramento] Time for debate is over.

Vote as seen on screen: Passed 67 to 53. Standing rules supersede Robert’s rules.

[CM Rev. Diane Weible, First Church Berkeley, Bay] Should we re-take for 1st one?

Retaking the vote on the following: Motion to ratify the UCC constitutional (bundled) amendments. Abstentions do not count as negative. Need a simple majority.

Vote: 71 yes, 34 no → motion passes

<p>Resolution #3: HR 4391 Promoting Human Rights Presenter: Casey Ream, First Congregational Church - Eureka, Golden Gate</p>

Read position.

Concerned about the ill-treatment of Palestinian children under military detention in the West Bank, the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ endorses Rep. Betty McCollum’s bill H.R. 4391, the Promoting Human Rights by Ending Israeli Military Detention of Palestinian Children Act. This decision is to be officially communicated in writing to all members of the U.S House of Representatives representing congressional districts in the territorial area of the Conference. Representatives listed as cosponsors of the legislation will be thanked, and the others will be asked to join the list. California and Nevada’s senators will be asked to sponsor a Senate version of the bill. Additionally, churches and members will be encouraged to contact their congressional representatives and senators directly about the bill.

[Moderator Rev. Phil Konz, Pioneer UCC, Sacramento] Because we are the NCNC, this impacts the California and Nevada House senators. The background purpose is to raise awareness.

[Casey Ream] The discernment was unanimous. Casey moved to accept it.

[Fay Grundel, Pioneer UCC, Sacramento] Comment about the verbiage. We don’t need the words “two” and add word *congressional* representatives.

[CM Rev. Diane Weible, First Church Berkeley, Bay] The statement does not say “who” will be communicating, thanking, etc. We need to be really clear who will do it. There is a Palestine network and she’s happy to circulate, but cannot speak for the NCNC. She offered a friendly amendment suggestion that the Moderator to do this.

[Casey Ream] He accepts friendly amendment (see triplicate) as posted on the screen.

Motion passed.

Resolution #4: Opposing the Israel Anti-boycott
Presenter: Esther Riley, Community Church UCC - Golden Gate

Position read from screen.

Concerned about any erosion on our First Amendment right to boycott as a nonviolent tool for effecting social change and expressing our values, the Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ opposes the Israel Anti-Boycott Act (S.720 in the Senate, H.R. 1697 in the House) and urges all Members of Congress (House and Senate) to actively oppose this bill, withdrawing their names if they are already cosponsors. This decision is to be officially communicated in writing to California's & Nevada's senators and to all elected representatives of congressional districts in the territorial area of the Conference. Additionally, churches and church members are encouraged to express their opposition to the bill by contacting their respective representatives and California's & Nevada's senators.

Purpose is to strengthen UCC grass roots opposition to this anti-boycott act.

[Rev. Casey Tinnin, ? , ?] He encourages us as NCNC to talk about things that matter that are local and things affecting us.

[Rev. Sally Train, FCC San Rafael, Golden] Have any California reps co-signed? Yes, but our 2 senators have not co-signed.

[Ken Moore, FCC Auburn, Sacramento] All those who were in discernment in meeting earlier today were in favor.

Vote taken. Motion passes.

Resolution #5: Opposing the Anti-semitism Awareness Act of 2018
Presenter: Esther Riley, Fairfax Community Church

Position read from screen.

Concerned about any erosion of our First Amendment right to free speech, the Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ opposes the Anti-Semitism Awareness Act of 2018 (S.2940 in the Senate, H.R. 5924 in the House) and urges all Members of Congress (House and Senate) to actively oppose this bill, withdrawing their names if they are already cosponsors. This decision is to be officially communicated in writing to California's & Nevada's senators and to all elected representatives of congressional districts in the territorial area of the Conference. Additionally, churches and church members are encouraged to express their opposition to the bill by contacting their respective representatives and California and Nevada's senators.

Comment made regarding verbiage. Consider removing two occurrences of “California and Nevada.”

[*Rev. Lloyd Schneider, Angels Camp, Mtn Valley*] Called the question. Jeannie Hobbs seconded. No debate. **Vote taken. Motion passes.**

Resolutions ended 4:30 pm

[*CM Rev. Diane Weible, First Church Berkeley, Bay*]

- Read letter re: immigrants and allowed persons to sign.
- Offered a prayer/blessing and who have been newly elected & currently serving

[*Moderator Rev. Phil Konz, Pioneer UCC, Sacramento*]

- Eppie Encabo – Introduction as Moderator 2019
- Gave thanks to AG7 (mod, vice, CM, ACM, staff)

Meeting adjourned 4:56 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Melissa Tumaneng, Conference Council Member