

SLIDE #1

TOWN HALL MEETING

June 4, 2014

SLIDE #2 WELCOME

Good evening. I am Linda Ice, President of the Congregation, and am pleased to welcome you to our fifth Town Hall Meeting. We will begin our time this evening with the lighting of our chalice.

SLIDE #3 CHALICE LIGHTING

LEADER: We call this light before us
in hope that we may always remain a strong community,
working together to make the world a better place.

When we are grieving or sad,
When we are challenged,
When we need help,
This flame guides us out of the darkness.

When we are cheerful,
When we celebrate,
When we accomplish a great task,
When we return to a place that makes us happy,
The chalice reminds us to share our happiness with others.

PAUSE...

LEADER: Life is a gift for which we are grateful
We gather in community to celebrate
the glories and mysteries of this great gift.

CONGREGATION: *In the light of truth, and the warmth of love,
We gather to seek, to sustain, to share.*

SLIDE #4 NUTS & BOLTS

The focus of tonight's Town Hall Meeting is to introduce our newly contracted Interim Minister. However, if there are other topics of interest, question, or concern, I or another Board member will be happy to address those as well.

We will open the floor to questions and comments in a very few minutes. We will keep our format the same as at the last meetings: if you have a question that you would like to present this evening, please line up alongside the south wall of the sanctuary and as it is your turn, state your name and question into the mic. We will ask you to hold your question or comment to two minutes this evening to better ensure that everyone will have the opportunity to ask their question. Time will be allowed for response from Reverend Holt, me or another member of the board. _____ will serve as our timekeeper.

If you prefer to write your question, please do so on one of the provided notecards and place it in the basket here at the front table. One of our directors will be reviewing the questions to avoid duplication and we will allow time toward the end of the evening for these questions to be answered.

I invite Mark McMurry, Chair of the Interim Task Force to make our introductions this evening. Mark...

SLIDE # 5 INTERIM TASK FORCE MEMBERS

I would like to, once again, recognize the members of the Interim Task Force and thank them for the countless hours of service to this very important charge!

- Cathy McConnell
- Walter McConathy
- Sara Munoz
- Robert Slane

I think it is okay for me to say that after perusing the printed materials and conducting phone interviews with four candidates, Reverend Holt was at the top of each of our list and we were honored to know that we were at the top of his!

SLIDE #6 WELCOME REVEREND ALEX HOLT!!!

So, without any further adieu, I would like to introduce Reverend Alex Holt!

Alex may make a few opening comments, then...

SLIDE #7 Q & A

Introducing Rev. Alex Holt

69 adults and 6 children were present for a question and answer session with Alex. Below is a compilation of what was said:

Q: Will you teach a meditation class?

A: Alex usually forms a mediation group while serving as IM if there are aren't too many others in the area, offering a class one day per week with 1 to 1½ hours of meditation followed by discussion. He also offers a class on *Mindful Eating* and the *Historical Jesus*.

Q: What will be your focus while you are here?

A: It is too soon to tell as he is just learning "our story." He will help Westside define its past, identity and future.

Q: How can we attract "Nones" to Westside?

A: "Ask them!" Offer Nones a safe place; update our language to be more appealing, especially to young people. Alex will offer two services in August; *We Gather in Reverence* and a Question and Answer session with questions from the floor.

Q: Will you meet with CRE classes to explain your role?

A: Yes. His role will not focus on pastoral care; he is not a trained counselor. He will work with committees and other groups.

Q: Tell us something of your religious background.

A: He is not a cradle UU. He was home-schooled until High School and did not attend church until his 30s in the Bay Area of CA. In 1995 he became a follower of Zen Buddhism.

Q: What are your favorite things?

A: His partner Debra (who was present), technology/internet, walking, books especially Sci Fi, cats, some computer games.

Q: Will you help with the SMART program?

A: Alex knows about this program, but he is more interested in updating AA language and removing religious fundamentalism from that program.

Q: Will you show us pictures of your cats?

A: See Westside's Facebook page.

Additional Comments: Alex bases his "theology" on the 1st and 7th UU principles. He thinks speaking to our congregation's faith diversity is important. He plans to have a service where members of Westside will tell us about their own theology.

WRAP UP

Once again, on behalf of the board, I would like to thank you for your attendance this evening. We have not scheduled further Town Hall Meetings at this point. We invite you to share your feedback with regards to the continuation of the Town Hall format. If there are new or pertinent topics to discuss, we will most definitely gather again!

Reverend Holt has agreed to stay for a while longer to enjoy informal conversation with you this evening. Please feel free to stay and have a more personal visit with him! We will try to wrap up by 9:00 at the latest...

And now, as we rise in body or spirit, Director, _____ will offer our Closing Words.

SLIDE #8 CLOSING WORDS

LEADER: With faith in the creative powers of life,
With hope for the future of life in this world,
With love for all others who share this life with us,
Let us go forward together in peace.
Our meeting has ended; let our service begin.

EXTINGUISH CHALICE

SLIDE #9 CONGREGATIONAL CLOSING

Let us go in peace,
believe in peace,
and create peace in our lives and in the world.

SLIDE #10 NEXT TOWN HALL MEETING...TBA