

Niantic Community Church
Special Congregational Meeting Minutes
Hybrid Meeting on June 11th, 2023 at 10:30 a.m.

1. Welcome and Call to Order: President Frank Chan called the meeting to order at 10:42 am, Quorum established.
2. Notice of Call: Read by President Frank Chan
3. Opening Prayer: Offered by Pastor Kaleigh Corbett Rasmussen
4. Reviewed the UCC Search & Call Process and the UMC Appointment Process to call a settled pastor by President Frank Chan. NCC held a Congregational meeting on 4/23/23 to receive information regarding the respective processes by the UMC District Superintendent and the UCC Conference Minister. On 5/28/23, the ad hoc Search Committee of nine members, having equal representations for UMC, UCC and NCC, was commissioned during worship service.
5. Frank Chan reviewed rationale to vote using paper ballots and discussed voting method on Zoom.
6. Procedure Votes
 - a. **Motion** to approve a majority of votes to decide between UMC and UCC instead of a 2/3 vote. Motion made by Lew Meier to allow a majority seconded by John Whritner. Ron Johnson offered an amendment is to maintain a 2/3 majority vote for the first ballot, if that fails then we cast a second ballot with just a majority vote. **Motion as amended is accepted by voice vote.**
 - b. **Motion** to approve accepting absentee ballots by a few members who are unable to attend. Motion made by Juanita Durham, seconded by Georgie Granger to accept absentee ballot. Peter Crizer offered an amendment to accept absentee ballots should a second ballot be required, seconded by Nancy Hunt. All in favor: raised hand vote: motion passed. **Motion as amended is accepted by voice vote.**
7. **Motion to decide between calling a UMC or UCC settled pastor.** Motion made by Liz Buhler, seconded by Lynne Floyd. Much discussions, questions by members, and clarifications and responses by Frank Chan, Rev. Eric Elnes and Rev. Kaleigh Rasmussen.

Five absentee paper ballots were accepted, index card paper ballots counted & cross-checked by Frank Chan and Sue Smith, and Jennifer Datum (checked by Frank Chan) counted the ten online votes. Frank Chan reported the following tallies - 88 total votes with 62 UCC and 26 UMC.

NCC voted to proceed with the UCC process to search and call the next settled pastor.

8. Benediction offered by Pastor Eric Elnes

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Rich Basham and seconded by Neil Passman at 11:35 am