

January 4, 2026

Meeting started at 12:10 pm and was presided by Board President Ram Kakarala.

Ram asked for help handing out the Resolutions.

Ram reminded the attendees that only church members could vote.

Ram explained that, as he read them, the resolutions would be displayed as screenshots on the wall.

The first order of business was to count the members. Ram & others did an eyeball count and determined that 23 members were in attendance.

Ram thanked the people who helped draft the resolutions: Dena Dickinson, Mary Martin, MM Feldman, Claire Wagner, Connie Hall, Rev. Matthew, Mary Helen Doherty, Lara Ruffolo, and others.

Ram then read one-by-one through the following resolutions with the words appearing simultaneously on the screen:

Resolution to Confer the Title of Minister Emerita Upon the Reverend Lindi Ramsden

WHEREAS the Reverend Lindi Ramsden lovingly and creatively served the First Unitarian Church of San José as Senior Minister for 17 years; and

WHEREAS, after being called as our Minister in 1985, Rev. Lindi revitalized the church and grew it into a thriving congregation which, in 1988, was awarded the prestigious O Eugene Pickett Award for being the Unitarian Universalist church that showed the most outstanding growth in all aspects of church life; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, due to her leadership, our church began an intentional ministry to the Spanish-speaking community with Unitarios Universalistas de Habla Hispana offering opportunities for worship, education, and community support to Spanish-speaking people seeking a liberal religious home; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure, Rev. Lindi led three capital campaigns to raise funds to restore our historic building, starting in 1992, when we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the church's construction by launching the Second Century Project, a fundraising campaign to save and restore our historic church, and when, in 1995, the church was greatly damaged by a six-alarm fire, she was a major force in the two subsequent campaigns that rebuilt the church, and

WHEREAS, Rev. Lindi fostered in our congregation, a culture of allyship and acceptance of sexual orientation and gender diversity, as well as a commitment to pacifism, with the church holding interfaith public forums about the first Gulf War, and

WHEREAS, Rev. Lindi shared her love of the mountains with our youth, leading numerous Junior High, Senior High, and Young Adult backpacking trips, a tradition which continued for many years and eventually spawned the Senior High Island trip and

WHEREAS, Rev. Lindi organized and mobilized C.A.R.E.S. (Community Alliance for a Responsible Educational System), a community coalition that led the successful campaign to save funding for 14 after-school program sites in the San José Unified School District, and

WHEREAS, Rev. Lindi served as a founding organizer and vice president of the Third Street Community Center, a nonprofit organization which, since 1997, has served downtown San Jose neighborhoods with a science and literacy-focused after-school program, computer instruction, free computers, and ESL classes; and

WHEREAS, with Rev. Lindi's guidance, our church in 1986 declared itself a sanctuary for refugees fleeing the wars in Central America, and actively supported the legal rights, housing, and job needs of refugees; and eventually expanded into an interfaith community organization called CERCA (Comite Ellacuria para Refugiados de Centroamerica), and

WHEREAS, as Minister, Rev. Lindi served as Chair of The Interfaith Council on Religion, Race, Economic and Social Justice, bringing together clergy, labor leaders, and leaders of community-based organizations to advance campaigns for social and economic justice in the South Bay, as well as serving on the Advisory Board of City Year, San Jose (AmeriCorps); and

WHEREAS, Rev. Lindi was a founding member of the Rainbow Network for Communication & Action - RN4CA - that facilitated LGBTQ leadership development and community mobilization in support of marriage equality; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Lindi served as the first Executive Director of the UU Legislative Ministry of California, which played a key role in the campaign to pass the landmark Human Right to Water legislation, and did vital work campaigning for justice issues in the state, including marriage equality, health care reform and environmental/climate justice, and furthermore, she helped develop the Spiritual

Activist Leadership Training (SALT) program to train young adults to be activists and organizers, and

WHEREAS, Rev. Lindi served our denomination in various ways: as an Assistant Professor and Acting Dean at the Starr King School for the Ministry, delivering the 2014 (UUMA) Berry Street Essay (the oldest lecture series in North America); and delivering the sermon for the Service of the Living Tradition at General Assembly 2019. and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Congregation of the First Unitarian Church of San José, in recognition of her and her many contributions and accomplishments during her years of service to us, as well as to our community and our denomination, do confer upon the Reverend Lindi Ramsden the title **Minister Emerita of the First Unitarian Church of San José**

By vote of the Congregation of the First Unitarian Church of San José, January 4th, 2026

After having read all the resolutions, he asked for a voice vote, Yes saying "Aye", and No saying "Nay". He also pulled in the members attending on the Zoom session. The vote was unanimous to confer the title.

The meeting was approximately 15 minutes long and ended at approximately 12:25 pm.

After the meeting, members congregated in Hattie Porter Hall for conversation, a selection of desserts and cake.