

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION AT MONTCLAIR
SPECIAL MEETING AND ELECTION FOR THE CALL OF SETTLED SENIOR CO-
MINISTERS
MAY 7, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 12:13 PM.

President Michael Mernin called for quorum and proxies.

- The number needed for a quorum was 66.
- A count indicated that 180 members and 50 proxy votes were present.
- Paper ballots were distributed.

Michael reviewed the rules of procedure and Laura Wilson from the Ministerial Transition Team read the “Annual Meeting Invocation” by Heather K. Janules.

The Search Committee, represented by Nancy Felix, moved to call Reverends Anya and Scott Sammler-Michael to share the role of next settled minister for the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair. Lou Dodge seconded the motion, which carried.

Nancy listed the strengths Reverends Anya and Scott have demonstrated:

- Dynamic worship experiences
- Congregational growth among people of all backgrounds
- A strengthened community, with old and new members coalescing
- Social activism
- Collaborative spirit

Comments pro and con followed.

- Rebecca Lutzy said she’d been part of the congregation since she was born and strongly endorsed this choice.
- Anne Evans said this was the day she’d been waiting for all her life.
- Sarah Scalet suggested that we be sensitive to any gender bias that could result from having a man and woman sharing the role of senior minister, and reminded us that they would be sharing one full-time role.
- David Lewis pointed out that this was the fourth minister selection he had participated in; the choice, he said, was an indication of our congregation’s dynamism and prospects for growth.
- Lou Dodge recognized the Search Committee and asked for a unanimous decision to call Reverends Anya and Scott.
- Jim Abramson talked about the extensive communications the congregation conducted with members to learn in detail what we were looking for in a new minister.

- Sue Raufer represented another congregant, who was not present, who voiced disappointment that we had missed an opportunity to name a person of color.
- Ted Hunter recognized all the strengths we've gained from Interim Minister Justin Osterman, and offered thanks for his service.

The ballots were collected and counted by members of the Board of Trustees while Musical Director Markus Grae-Hauck led an ensemble to entertain congregants.

The voting was reported: 229 yeas, 2 nays and 3 abstentions. The congregation roundly cheered the UUCM's new co-ministers, and the two joyfully accepted the position.