

## Co-Presidents' Presentation at November 5, 2023 Congregational Meeting

**Robin:** Thank you, Cara. Good afternoon, everyone. I'm Robin Bossert, Co-President

**Lisa:** And I'm Lisa Pacenza, Co-President. Thank you all for joining us here in the sanctuary and online. I especially want to welcome those of you who are first timers to a First U Brooklyn congregational meeting. Can I see a show of hands? Great.

**Robin:** I want to remind everyone that as Board members we represent you, this is your society and though you will be getting a lot of information today, we need to hear from you as well.

**Lisa:** A lot has happened since our last meeting in March, when we announced the plan to hire a director of building operations to oversee our growing rentals business. We'd like to thank the search committee for an outstanding job: Jennie Goldin, Paul Freitag and Monica Murphy.

**Robin:** If you haven't met the amazing Renee Strickland make it your business to introduce yourself. She brings a wealth of experience beyond rentals. Having a law degree comes in handy in negotiations and risk management. She works daily with the facade restoration folks where her experience with historic buildings is an asset.

**Lisa:** We're happy to report that we continue to grow as a community. Since July 1, 83 newcomers have been added to our database. This includes 16 new families, with 21 children and youth under 18.

**Robin:** Based on the adults who provided their birth date, over 50% were born in 1981 or later - so welcome Millennials and Gen Z-ers!

**Lisa:** And let's not forget Generation Alpha! This year we have 70 children who are registered for RE, with 11 in the Youth Group. We truly are a community for all ages.

**Robin:** Then there's the incredible ordination of our very own Meagan Henry that brought our community together while hosting an impressive group of UU's from across the continent. Many thanks to the 94 families who donated to Meagan Henry's ordination fund.

**Lisa:** As you also are aware, we have had a staff change with the departure of Kevin Brunson, and will soon start the process to replace him.

**Robin:** We welcomed back Chris Johnson, our past facilities manager, who swooped in from his digs in Florida to help us out as we rethink our facilities staffing with Renee and other stakeholders over the next three months.

**Lisa:** We'd also like to welcome two new members to the Committee on Ministry: Paul Freitag and Tyrone Davis, Jr.

**Robin:** We'd also like to recognize the new lighting and sound in the chapel thanks to a grant secured by Dan Gottfried, producer of Voices in the Heights and installed by Jay Lawrence.

**Lisa:** So that's a look at some of what we've accomplished so far this year. What's next? It's only 27 days until Unifair! Sign up for a workshift if you can, and plan on bringing friends and family to shop on Saturday December 2!

**Robin:** Now start making your wish list for what to raise money for our mid-winter appeal.

**Lisa:** Which is a perfect segue to turn the mic over to our treasurer, Lee Pardee, who will update us on our budget and finances.