



Board Meeting – Aug. 19, 2020

Our mission: To be a compassionate, welcoming community that nurtures spiritual growth and practices justice.

Meeting Minutes

Board: Ann Hutton, President; Kim Reid, Vice President; Greg Turosak, Secretary; Rob Harveland, Treasurer; Dave Siljeborg, Joe Lobl, Molly Dingel, Sarah Hayes and Kathy Schwartz, Members at Large; Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer, ex officio.

Absent: Sarah Hayes, Member at Large

1. **Call to Order, Chalice Lighting and Reflection.** Ann called the meeting to order via Zoom. Kim reflected on the theme of Compassion and lit the chalice.
2. **Agenda.** Approved as distributed.
3. **Minutes from July 2020 meeting and board planning session.** Approved as distributed.
4. **Financial update.** Rob started by recounting the recent meeting with Finance Committee. A lot of the discussion was about the upcoming annual auction, to be held virtually. There were some comments about the Board not following all of Finance's recommendations about the extra money. Rob pointed out most recommendations were followed; some money was put into the roof fund. Some concern as well about the staff pay bonus; Rob pointed out it was a one-time payment that doesn't accumulate, and it lives our values.

Regarding financial status, Rob said we're still getting income, and that most of what we're expecting in pledges will come in. We have an operating reserve of about \$61,000 and working capital of about \$92,500, so we're not going to be caught by a budget surprise, Rob said.

Regarding the auction (date is Oct. 30), Rob said it will all need to be held online because of the pandemic. Planners are still trying to figure out the best approach for the fixed-price and silent auction portions of the auction. If the auction results in a lot less money, it's possible that we could also do a spring auction, but then that would compete with the annual pledge drive. In any event, if the auction proceeds come in way under, we'll need to talk in November and December what to do to address the budget.

Joe asked how much the auction was expected to bring in. Rob said that "fund-raisers" – which is primarily the auction but includes the hand-crafted bazaar – is budgeted for \$25,000. He said auction planners would soon do a test of software to see how things would work. He described it as more of an e-Bay experience than a Zoom experience.

5. **Minister's Report.** Rev. Luke reflected on the myriad changes we've faces as we head into another program year. He, Joe Lobl, Ann Hutton and Anita DeAngelis are working on re-gathering guidelines. Almost all church programs will be online. Some small in-person gatherings may take place as they may be set up safely. Wednesday forums, Chalice Circles and youth group will resume again online. The new program year will kick off with a Sept. 13 Water Communion service, including some sort of drive-through activity. Rev. Luke noted that the Shared Ministry

Team is working hard toward a Sept. 2 kick-off meeting. With everything that is in flux, Rev. Luke said that our church's fall plans feel a bit like a lava lamp.

6. Old business.

- a. **Shared Ministry team.** Rev. Luke reviewed the latest iteration of the Shared Ministry document, which depicts the program teams as parts of a tree and which includes a description of the guiding principle, governance roles, team roles and logistics, and possible team members. At-large members will be recruited in the coming weeks, with a kick-off meeting planned for Sept. 2. Greg, Kim and Ann suggested we make clear that at-large members of the teams need to be church members. Motion by Dave, second by Kathy, that: The board goes on record to clarify that at-large members of the programmatic teams under the Shared Ministry model of governance must be members of the First UU Church of Rochester. Approved unanimously.
- b. **Re-gathering guidelines and activities.** Rev. Luke said he's been sending lots of suggestions to the Re-Gathering Guidelines group (which as noted earlier consists of himself, Joe, Ann and Anita), and that it's important to connect with people in ways that are safe. There was some thought of an outdoor church service in September, but the logistics appeared overwhelming. Better to do a drive-thru, Rev. Luke said. There may be a few small gatherings this fall. Joe said it has been a real challenge to balance the need for safety with the need for social interaction. Rev. Luke said there is discussion of conducting the hand-crafted bazaar in an approach similar to the Rochester Farmers Market, if possible. Melissa Egger has been looking into what safety protocols would be needed. Ann wondered if our church would need to register with county health authorities in order to do that. Rev. Luke also said he'd begin work on updating Phase III pandemic guidelines for the congregation.
- c. **Board timeline, communication and board installation.** Rev. Luke said there's an idea for a welcome-back-to-UU-church video for posting in September. Kim, Molly and Joe said they liked the idea; Joe also suggested some sort of printed format for people who don't have great computer access. Rev. Luke also suggested that board bullet points could be posted at some point after each meeting to keep congregants posted and connected. Greg said he'd work up a test to send to Ann and Rev. Luke. Dave asked about the Wednesday forums. Rev. Luke said they would be remote and include a variety of topics such as elections, community health, racial justice. Board installation likely will occur online and possibly as part of the Sept. 13 Water Communion service.

Meeting adjourned. Next Board meeting will be Sept. 16, 2020.

Addendum to minutes. Via an email string initiated on Sept. 9, Ann Hutton moved, and Rob Harveland seconded, the following motion: Accept the recommendation of the Financial Stewardship Team to accept a bid from Elcor of \$32,195 to replace the upper parking lot, add five limited mobility parking spots to the grassy area, address drainage away from the building and restripe the lower parking lot, with funds to be taken from the Maintenance and Replacement Fund. Approved unanimously via email voting between Sept. 9 and 11.

Respectfully submitted, Greg Turosak, secretary