



Board Meeting – March 17, 2021

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 Siljenberg, Joe Lobl, Molly Dingel, Sarah Hayes and Brianna Berg, Members at Large; Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer, ex officio.

Absent: Joe Lobl, Sarah Hayes, Members at Large.

Guest: Melissa Egger.

1. **Call to Order.** Ann called the meeting to order.
2. **Chalice Lighting and Reflection.** Rev. Luke shared words of Lynn Unger regarding Sabbath, and the chalice was lit.
3. **Agenda.** Motion by Dave, second by Rob to approve the agenda and the minutes from the February 2021 meeting. Approved.
4. **Financial reports.** Rob said financials are looking all right. He reminded the board that this is typically the time of year when expenses exceed income. To this point in the church budget year, income is 7% above projections and expenses are 13% below, Rob reported. He said to expect the past month's trend to continue in March, April and May. The plate is a little low, but we're doing well with pledges, Rob said.
5. **Minister's report.** Rev. Luke reflected on both a year of dealing with the pandemic and on our new Shared Ministry governance model. Regarding the pandemic, he noted that we are both weary and resilient, both feeling unsettled and hopeful. In the coming months, we'll imagine the future of our church life, realizing that we won't go back to exactly how things were pre-pandemic. Regarding governance, Rev. Luke said good governance is essential our flourishing as a church. The Shared Ministry model, he said, has improved communication and collaboration, provided clear lines of contact to staff, and has increased programmatic awareness on the board. The new model shifts from governance based on individuals to governance based on community. It helps invite leadership from new people, it creates accountability and it allows for broader involvement of people at various levels. Although the road has been rough at times, we are heading on a good course, Rev. Luke said. He said he intends to discuss with the Shared Ministry team another year of implementation of the model before formalizing any bylaws changes.
6. **Old business.**
 - a. **Building Our Future: Legal expense.** Ann led a discussion regarding our church building and its possible inclusion on a final city list of heritage buildings, which would limit changes that could be made to the building. We are currently on a potential properties list. Ann said that she, Gail Bishop and George Huston met recently with representatives of three other Rochester churches who also are concerned about what final decisions the Heritage Preservation Commission may make regarding their properties. Because the process isn't entirely clear, and communications from the city

have been lacking, Ann asked the board for some money to spend on legal fees. She proposed working with an attorney who is representing one of the churches. Motion by Ann, second by Kim to authorize the Building Our Future team to seek legal advice regarding the Heritage Preservation Commission's activities related to our church, with the expense limited to \$2,000 without future board approval. Approved.

b. Shared Ministry.

- i. **Congregational Life.** Melissa Egger, coordinator of Congregational Life, appeared as a guest for this discussion. She recounted a recent meeting of the Congregational Life team at which possible changes to the hospitality teams were discussed. Numerous emails circulated after the meeting. Melissa's comments led to a broader board discussion of a possible congregational covenant regarding "right relations" and seeking perspective from the UUA. The matter was referred to the board's Executive Team for further consideration of options.
 - ii. **Administration.** Greg described the recent budget meeting of the Administration Team. The team set ground rules for the meeting that provided for initial discussion to be confined to the team members. Comments from attendees were heard and discussed during the last part of the meeting.
 - iii. **Faith Development.** Kim said the team had a good meeting, looking to how we would remodel if we moved to a new building, and also what Faith Development might look like once we can return to our building. There also was some discussion about the youth pilgrimage to Boston and whether to delay for a year.
 - iv. **Social Justice.** Did not meet since last board meeting.
- c. **Ongoing 2021-2022 budget discussion.** Rob noted that a drive-through pledge event would occur on Sunday, March 21. He said the budget for the 2021-2022 church year is coming along. He did not have a copy of the draft budget to share with the board yet. A big item, he said, will be figuring out salaries. UUA has guidelines regarding salaries for churches of various sizes. Regarding budgeting for any property needs, Rob said regardless of whether we stay or go, if something needs to be fixed, it will be fixed, and we'll come up with the money.

7. New business.

8. Other/Announcements.

- a. Drive-thru pledge event on Sunday, March 21.
- b. Upcoming book discussions: March 24 (Just Mercy); April 14 (An Indigenous People's History of the United States).

Meeting adjourned. Next Board meeting will be April 21, 2021.

Respectfully submitted, Greg Turosak, secretary