



Board Meeting – May 19, 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.

1. **Call to Order.** Ann called the meeting to order.
2. **Chalice Lighting and Reflection.** Brianna addressed the theme of Story with inspiration from “What About the Rest of Your Life” by Sung Yim.
3. **Agenda and previous meeting minutes.** Motion by Dave, second by Rob to approve the agenda as amended (to add how we are responding to the death of the spouse of former First UU Minister Rev. Dillman Baker Sorrells) and the minutes from the April 2021 meeting. Approved.
4. **Financial reports.** Rob noted that email approval was given for organ repairs. He said that as of April, we had \$85,000 more income than expenses, which will dip before the end of the church fiscal year. He said the challenge the next time the board meets will be to decide what to do with the extra funds. Rob said he’d recommend one-time use of extra funds rather than rolling them into the annual operating budget. Regarding the annual pledge drive, Joe said that it did well, with \$517,000 pledged, a 10% increase over the previous year. Ann expressed thanks to Joe, Barb Foss and others involved in the pledge effort. Rob explained the budget for the coming year. After discussion, there was consensus to keep the Social Justice line at \$2,000, and to add some dollars for legal fees related to retaining legal advice regarding implications of possible historic designation of the church building. Total budget for 2021-2022 is \$557,774. Motion by Greg, second by Molly to approve the 2021-2022 budget as amended. Approved.
5. **Minister’s report.** Rev. Luke reported that with all of the logistical, emotional and spiritual fatigue related to the work of the church in times of COVID, it’s time this summer for him and staff to take a breather, a Sabbath. Rev. Luke plans to be off from after the annual meeting on June 6 to early July, and he has encouraged staff to take as much time off as possible in June as well. He said that by August, there may be live streaming of Sunday service with only the service participants, perhaps moving toward renewed limited in-person services sometime after that.
6. **Old business.**
 - a. **Next Steps Week** with Rachel Maxwell, UUA consultant. Numerous board members agreed that the week with Rachel Maxwell, who visited virtually to assess our congregation’s readiness for a capital campaign regarding our property/building, was positive and that they were impressed. Her work was “thought-provoking” and “thorough” and she concluded that we are in a church intended for a much smaller congregation. Ann said the next step is to receive a written report from Rachel Maxwell.
 - b. **Shared Ministry.** Kim and Greg reported that there has been no meeting of the overall Shared Ministry Team lately; they reminded the board of the decision to extend by 1 year the trial period for the Shared Ministry model.
 - i. **Administration.** Greg said the Administration team would next meet on May 20.

- ii. **Congregational Life.** Joe said Congregational Life last met on May 16. Discussion was on better communication, a team covenant and a recommendation for consideration of a church-wide covenant regarding right relations. He said that new members would be welcomed at the next Sunday's services.
 - iii. **Faith Development.** Kim reported that participation for online services was higher earlier in the year. She said a survey would go out to gauge interest in a Boston pilgrimage for adults in 2022. Commitments are needed by August.
 - iv. **Financial Stewardship.** Rob reported nothing else to add about finances.
 - v. **Social Justice.** Brianna said the team hasn't met lately.
 - vi. **Worship and Music.** Ann reported this team will meet next on May 26.
 - c. **Re-Gathering guidelines and activities.** Joe said that the upcoming outdoor Sunday services on May 23 indicate the direction the church is going in as to getting back together. He said we're heading in the direction of gradually opening back up. The team is trying to keep in mind the unvaccinated and most vulnerable among us, he said. Rev. Luke said we're moving toward a hybrid model of gathering – multi-platform, with some in-person and life streaming.
 - d. **Annual Meeting.** Ann said this year's annual meeting will be live Zoom session on June 6. Rev. Luke said there would be an e-news reminder of the date, link and opportunity to vote for church officers. Ann said voting would occur over a 2-week period leading up to the meeting.
7. **New business.**
- a. **Summer/New Year retreat.** Ann said the board will take a hiatus from meeting in June and will meet next in July, when goals for the new year may be discussed.
 - b. **July reflection.** Ann will do.
8. **Other/Announcements.**
- a. **Passing of Rev. Dillman's spouse.** Rev. Luke said that he had a good conversation with Rev. Dillman. He said that the search committee that had worked to bring Rev. Dillman to our church is sending flowers. Rev. Luke and others wrote a note on behalf of our congregation. A small service will be held in the Carolinas, and Connie Schuelka will play music at the service.
 - b. **Good-bye to the board.** Board member Sarah Hayes, who is leaving the board, thanked everyone and received thanks and well-wishes from the other board members.

Meeting adjourned. Board will take a Sabbath from its monthly meeting schedule in June. Next Board meeting will be July 21, 2021.

Respectfully submitted, Greg Turosak, secretary