



Board Meeting – Aug. 18, 2021

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

Meeting Minutes

Note: These minutes reflect actions taken electronically leading up to the Aug. 18, 2021, meeting and during the in-person meeting.

Board: Ann Hutton, President; Kim Reid, Vice President; Greg Turosak, Secretary; Rob Harveland, Treasurer; Dave Siljenberg, Joe Lobl, Molly Dingel, Brianna Berg and Walt Rothwell, Members at Large; Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer, ex officio.

Absent from in-person meeting on Aug. 18, but participating in the electronic discussions and actions: Ann Hutton, President; Greg Turosak, Secretary

Guest: George Huston, member of the *Building Our Future – Beyond Ourselves* team

Items sent electronically prior to the Aug. 18 meeting

1. **Approve minutes from prior meeting.** The board approved via email the minutes from the July 21 board meeting and planning session.
2. **Financial reports.** Rob noted that the board left some surplus from the 2019-2020 fiscal year in our carryover fund as a placeholder in case something came up during the pandemic where we might need some funds available to change the way that we connect distantly. We didn't spend all the funds. The board did address, in its July meeting, where to put the 2020-2021 surplus, but we didn't take into account that we didn't deplete the money from the prior fiscal year. With facing the delta variant of COVID now, Rob asked should we leave the balance where it is, or move it to another fund. The money could be used for some technology items we could add to enhance the quality of the live stream (like adding the ability to stream the computer screen and the camera instead of pointing the camera at the hanging screen). The money could also be moved to building our future or operating reserves, he added.
3. **Minister's report.** Rev. Luke provided the following updates:
 - a. **In-person worship.** We're delaying our return to in-person worship attendance, though continuing with two important and new changes: (1) Live-streaming the service on Sunday morning, and (2) Hosting outdoor coffee hour. This past week included a couple of dozen people outside – some masked for the entire time, others part of the time. We will continually re-evaluate our practices, hoping to gather in the coming weeks, though all is uncertain at this point. Given that, we'll continue to encourage small groups online, outdoor activities, etc., Rev. Luke said.
 - b. **Social Justice.** This team will meet the week of Aug. 22-28, as well as be invited to learn more about a Catholic Charities refugee resettlement program, and if our church would like to be involved. We'll consider ways to deepen relationships with our shared plate partners, and brainstorm best communication practices to keep people informed and invite involvement. This week on Sunday we'll encourage some MUUSJA action focused on the Line 3 pipeline.
 - c. **Shared Ministry Team.** Will meet again in September.
 - d. **Staff.** Staff is meeting as a whole team monthly, with smaller meetings throughout each week as needed for more in-depth and nimble planning.

- e. **Congregational Covenant.** Rev. Sharon Dittmar of MidAmerica recommends doing covenant work when we can meet in person; however, she said it can be done virtually, or part of it, if we'd like. She would be available beginning in November. We could wait entirely until in-person can resume, or we could do an online introduction of some kind to get the ball rolling.
- 4. **Approve 2021-2022 Board goals.** The board approved the following goals and related tasks for the 2021-2022 year:
 - a. **Goal 1: Offer opportunities for connection and spiritual care as we re-gather within the lingering pandemic environment.** Tasks within:
 - i. Continue and, as possible, expand options for a vibrant “multiplatform” congregational life and engagement in the church.
 - ii. Monitor practices and advice from religious and health sources, adapting our *Pandemic Congregational Guidelines* as needed.
 - iii. Communicate updated plans for engagement in public services and events.
 - b. **Goal 2: Transition into Shared Ministry.** Tasks within:
 - i. Monitor implementation and offer opportunities for congregational dialogue.
 - ii. Undertake the creation of a congregational covenant, with assistance from regional staff, which offers opportunities for engagement among members and friends.
 - iii. Review the bylaws and propose amendments to reflect and strengthen our Shared Ministry.
 - iv. Review and revise, as needed, our current policies and procedures and, as necessary, adopt new policies.
 - c. **Goal 3: Strive to create systemic change for justice within our congregation and community.** Tasks within:
 - i. Work collaboratively and continue to deepen the congregational understanding of justice issues.
 - ii. Finalize the Sex Offender Risk Reduction policy'
 - d. **Goal 4: Continue *Building Our Future-Beyond Ourselves* activities.** Tasks within:
 - i. Meet with additional architects and Realtors.
 - ii. Challenge the Heritage Preservation Commission Landmark Property status with the City.
 - iii. Host informational sessions sharing updated information.
 - iv. Use the *Stewardship for Us* report prepared by Rachel Maxwell to guide future activities.
- 5. **Update from Shared Ministry Team and from Shared Ministry program teams.** Kim said the Shared Ministry Team will meet again in September and that she and Greg will convey the Shared Ministry questions brought up by the board at the board's July meeting. Program team reports:
 - a. **Administration.** Greg reported that the Administration Team has not met nor transacted any e-business since the last board meeting. Erika has polled team members to set up a meeting date in September.
 - b. **Congregational Life.** Joe reported that Congregational Life hasn't met since the last board meeting. Plans are in place for hospitality volunteers to sign up online when we resume in-person services. The Re-gathering Team met on Aug. 8 and recommended delaying the church in-person reopening for at least a few weeks, as we see how our community is impacted by the delta variant of COVID. Joe said the team is keeping track of updates and hopes to reassess reopening in the near future.
 - c. **Faith Development.** Kim said that this team has not met since July.
 - d. **Financial Stewardship.** Rob reported that this team updated the spending guidelines for our funds and that he will send around in future for board agreement.
 - e. **Social Justice.** The Social Justice Team plans to meet the week of Aug. 22-28.
 - f. **Worship & Music.** Ann reported that the Worship & Music Team has been in regular communication as the team continues to investigate how best to refine the live stream of Sunday services. The team had hoped to meet on Aug. 11 to put final touches on our first in-person and live stream combo but the introduction of more members into the sanctuary

has been delayed and so too has this quarter's team meeting. The team still hopes to meet at the end of August and plan for the pre-registered and masked larger attendance.

6. **Congregational Covenant.** Covered above in Rev. Luke's report.
7. **Re-gathering plans.** Covered above in the Congregational Life report.

In-person gathering at N.E. Rochester site that donors have offered to First UU Church

1. **Call to Order & identify a note-taker.** Kim Reid, vice president, called the meeting to order in the absence of Ann Hutton, board president. In the absence of Greg Turosak, secretary, Rob Harveland, treasurer, took notes.
2. **Approve the agenda.** Members present agreed to approve the agenda.
3. **Board Covenant.** Signatures on the Board Covenant were gathered from those board members present.
4. **Walking tour and update on future walking tours of the NE property.** George Huston provided satellite maps of the potential donated property showing approximate location of the trails that were groomed. George proceeded to explain the layout of the property and thoughts on how utilities might be provided to the site. George then proceeded to guide the board around the site; Walt Rothwell took photographs.
5. **Other / Announcements.** None.

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting: Via Zoom, Wednesday, Sept. 15, 6:45 p.m. check-in and 7:00 p.m. meeting.

Reflection theme: Embracing Possibility

Respectfully submitted, Greg Turosak, secretary