



Board Meeting – Jan. 19, 2022

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, Brianna Berg and Walt Rothwell, Members at Large; Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer, ex officio.

1. **Call to order.** Ann called the meeting to order.
2. **Chalice Lighting & Reflection.** Rev. Luke reflected on intentional living and creating community, and he lit the chalice.
3. **Motion to approve agenda and previous meeting minutes.** Walt moved, and Joe seconded, approving the agenda and previous meeting minutes. Approved.
4. **Financial reports.** Rob said that even though we postponed the fall auction, we're still operating with a good cash flow. A number of congregants donated at year's end. There's nothing concerning in the latest numbers, Rob said.
5. **Minister's report.** Rev. Luke said that, just prior to the latest COVID surge, the sanctuary felt alive for the three Christmas Eve services, one with about 100 people in attendance, a sign of things to come. He said these past couple of months of return to limited in-person services has shown him that people in the church are still feeling connected, and he is hopeful about spring. He said he hopes in-person services will resume in February. He said he also hopes that spring brings a renewal around the topics of shared ministry and building our future, and the engagement of several new church families and friends. He said he's also looking forward to the pledge drive and auction and has been amazed at the efforts of about 20 volunteers helping out an Afghan refugee family. Regarding a potential ministerial internship, Rev. Luke said that the candidate he has been engaged with has decided to take an opportunity with a different church.

Old business

6. **RASA – Rochester Arts and Science Academy.** Kim reported that RASA representatives contacted her and Amy Nelson, director of Faith Development, before Christmas wanting to get more feedback and to move toward a final agreement about RASA leasing space in our building for classrooms beginning in the fall of 2022. Kim said that she, Amy and Erika Fetterman, office administrator, met late in December to go over the latest. RASA wanted our church to pay more of building safety improvement costs than we were willing to pay. Kim said we also concluded we should not agree for the chapel to be used as one of their large classrooms because that would make it difficult for us to use that space. Other questions to be resolved included impact on space should our church serve as a sanctuary for a family and electrical upgrades. Kim said we hadn't heard from them for some time until contacting them this past Monday, when they indicated the fact that they couldn't use the sanctuary was concerning. Kim said RASA isn't saying no, but they are exploring other options. Kim said her gut feeling at this point is that the rental plan will not go forward. If things do move forward, she said the board would have a chance to see and vote on a final agreement before any agreement would move forward.
7. **Shared Ministry.** Kim said that at the last meeting of the Shared Ministry Governance Team, the group came up with several items that the individual teams should address when they hold their January/February meetings. She also wondered if it makes sense to set up a SMT meeting schedule for the year, to provide transparency. She also said that the Congregational Life team

has done a very good job of trying to be responsive. Among the items that the Shared Ministry Governance Team would like the individual teams to address: (1) Conduct of meetings – whether to establish a team covenant and setting leadership roles for teams; (2) Optimal team structure and terms – how many on a team (may differ from team to team) and term length; (3) Replacement of team members; (4) Communication to the team members. Kim and Rev. Luke indicated that an email would be going out soon to the Shared Ministry teams recapping the guidelines to the teams. Board members agreed that the direction is good. Ann said this is good and that the SMT teams haven't got into a routine yet. Greg asked if the SMT teams could/should have some sort of budget role, if advisory, going forward. Rob said that there's no reason that any team, at any point in the church year, that sees a budget need can't submit a request for an expenditure, and that there is an ability to redirect money to needs. Individual team reports:

- a. **Administration.** Greg said the Admin team hasn't met recently. Regarding one issue related to the team, Greg said that the Building Our Future/Beyond Ourselves team plans to meet on Jan. 27. One topic will be to consider the draft of a letter from First UU to the Heritage Preservation Commission objecting to our building's status on a list of "potential" heritage preservation buildings. Walt said it's a difficult issue because at a recent meeting of the commission, the group removed a local church from the official potential list but kept the church on an "informal" list – which Walt termed "gotcha" either way.
 - b. **Congregational Life.** Joe said there has been no meeting lately, but lots of activity. An Armchair Travelers session recently attracted about 45 people in person, and a tree-burning night at Squash Blossom Farm attracted about 60 people. He said more structure is definitely needed on the Congregational Life team.
 - c. **Faith Development.** No report.
 - d. **Financial Stewardship.** Joe said that this year's pledge drive would run from Valentine's Day to St. Patrick's Day. Once again, Barb Foss will be a key player. There will likely be a virtual variety show in relation to the pledge drive. Joe noted that inflation is running at 7% this year, and he said we don't want to have a "flat" fund drive.
 - e. **Social Justice.** Brianna and Molly said the group has not met in a while. Molly mentioned the work with the Afghan refugee family. She said that Julie Gilkinson has done an "incredible job" of coordinating this. Molly has met the family and said they are "really a wonderful family."
 - f. **Worship & Music.** Ann said the team hasn't met since before the holidays, and most of the discussion has been related to dealing with COVID.
8. **Mid-year Board update at a Wednesday forum.** Ann suggests that the board provide the congregation with a midyear update at a Wednesday forum. Dates discussed, with Feb. 2 looking like a good option. Ann will come up with a plan, involving those board members who are able to be present on Feb. 2.

New business

9. **None.**

Other / Announcements

10. **Transforming Hearts.** Brianna mentioned the Transforming Hearts training, which she and Molly took and which Marie Davidiak led. She said the training would help anyone shape almost anything they would do. Molly echoed Brianna's sentiments: "It helps you think about what kind of community we want to build." Rev. Luke said that he would be meeting soon with one of the leaders of the training regarding training for First UU staff. Molly said the training is a big investment of time, but worth it and recommends it for the board.

Next meeting: Via Zoom, Wednesday, Feb. 16, 6:45 p.m. check-in and 7:00 p.m. meeting.

Reflection theme: Widening the Circle – Greg

Respectfully submitted, Greg Turosak, secretary