



Board Meeting – May 18, 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.

Absent: Rob Harveland, Treasurer; Joe Lobl, Member at Large.

1. **Call to order.** Ann called the meeting to order.
2. **Chalice Lighting & Reflection.** Ann reflected on the theme of Nurturing Beauty and lit the chalice. Kim reflected further on the theme.
3. **Motion to approve agenda and previous meeting minutes.** Dave moved, and Walt seconded, approving the agenda, with one additional item, and previous meeting minutes. Approved.
4. **Financial reports.** April financial reports were provided electronically in advance of the meeting.
5. **Minister's report.** Rev. Luke thanked the current board for its work and support in the past year. He said the comments in the ministerial survey were humbling and nourishing. He said he's looking forward to taking some sabbath time this summer to create space in his mind and to spend time with family. He plans to spend occasional time at the church during the summer. He said that summer at the church promises strong guest preachers, beautiful music and engaging programming.

Old business

6. **Resolution supporting Minnesota End of Life Act.** Ann explained a resolution supporting the Minnesota End-of-Life Act. The Rev. Harlan Limpert of the Minnesota Interfaith Clergy for End-of-Life Options, is seeking support from all UU congregations in the state. The Minnesota act is modeled after similar legislation in Oregon, and would allow terminally ill patients to have the freedom to make end-of-life decisions. A resolution supporting the effort would be shared with the governor and legislators. Walt moved, and Greg seconded. Approved.
7. **FY2022-2023 Budget.** Ann began the discussion with a request from Gail Bishop, who sits on the board of the Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance (MUUSJA), to add \$500 to the \$1,000 in the budget for 2022-2023. Walt, Kim and Greg asked a number of questions to clarify lines in the budget regarding guest speakers, guest musicians, staff development, utilities and reserve funds. Adjustments suggested to budget lines dealing with staff development for DRE, utilities and sabbatical, as well as MUUSJA. Questions regarding the budget carryover over to be left to the new board when it meets in July. Greg moved, Kim seconded approval of the 2022-2023 budget with the suggested changes. Approved.
8. **(Ministerial survey.** Ann said that she has reviewed the results of the ministerial survey with Rev. Luke, and that a shorter version of the results would go out in next week's E-news. She said the results indicate that congregants are happy and satisfied with Rev. Luke. The survey questions were structured around the six defined areas of shared ministry. Rev. Luke said he appreciates the feedback that was in the survey.
9. **Building Our Future/Beyond Ourselves update.** Walt said that our church's request to be removed from consideration as a potential landmark is on the agenda of the May 23 meeting of the Heritage Preservation Commission. Walt, Rev. Luke and Ann all will speak at the meeting. Walt said the commission staff has recommended that our building be considered a landmark. He

said his hope is for a split vote, as to improve our chances of success upon appeal to the Rochester City Council. Ann said the issue is important whether our church stays at our current site to remodel or rebuild, or moves to a new site. If we stay, landmark status would impede our ability to do what needs to be done to the building; if we go, the status may reduce the amount of money we would receive by selling our current property. Ann also reported that we've received a report on building options from the Locus architectural firm. Next steps include bringing the new board up to speed on the issue, holding informational sessions in the fall with the congregation, and possibly bringing back UUA consultant Rachel Maxwell.

10. **Annual meeting details.** Ann said that attendance at the June 12 annual meeting can be either in-person or via Zoom. Voting for church offices will have occurred both online prior to the meeting and at the meeting. Ann said she is still working on logistics allowing nominations from the floor.
11. **Shared Ministry update.** Kim summarized key points of the May 1 meeting of the Shared Ministry Governance Team. The team looked at recruitment needs for the various Shared Ministry teams. She said that Jerry Katzmann and Rev. Luke are working to provide a summary regarding Shared Ministry for the annual report. A retreat for all the Shared Ministry teams will occur in the fall, covering multiple topics, including communication, team member roles, meeting dates and common practices. The team also discussed goals for the 2022-2023 church year, including being more visible and having more communication with the congregation; finalizing the process for filling team vacancies; and suggesting any policy and by-laws changes that may be needed.
 - a. **Social Justice request.** Ann and Rev. Luke explained that our church is currently providing support for a couple of immigrant families. Congregants who are deeply involved with this – Sue and Phil Wheeler and Sandy and John MacLaughlin – want to get a sense from the board about how much financial support can be expected. Rev. Luke said that a shared plate could provide some of these funds. Discussion turned to the nearly \$5,000 currently in the Immigration Justice Fund. Ann suggested that, for now, the minutes of this meeting reflect that the board is comfortable with spending the fund down to \$1,500 as needed. Because the budget picture for next year will be clearer in July, Kim suggested the matter could be further considered by the board then.
12. **Re-gathering details.** Rev. Luke said that given the recent increase in COVID, efforts are continuing to make sure that people have multiple ways of participating in church activities.

New business

13. **Annual reports.** Ann reminded that annual reports are due by May 31.
14. **Summer meetings.** Kim noted that last year, the board took a sabbatical in June and did not meet. She proposes the same for this June.

Other / Announcements

15. None.

Next meeting: Format (in-person or via Zoom) TBD, Wednesday, July 20, 6:45 p.m. check-in and 7:00 p.m. meeting.

Reflection theme: Celebrate Blessings – TBD
Respectfully submitted, Greg Turosak, secretary