



Board Meeting – November 16, 2022

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

Meeting Minutes

Board: Kim Reid, President; Paul Trewartha-Weiner, Vice President; Kimberly E., Secretary, John Helmers, Treasurer; Brianna Berg, Molly Dingel, Jodi Edmonson, John Tacinelli & Walt Rothwell, Members at Large, Reb. Luke Stevens-Royer, ex officio

Absent: John H. and Luke

1. **Call to order.** Kim R. called the meeting to order.
2. **Chalice Lighting & Reflection.** Jodi shared a reflection on change.
3. **Motion to approve agenda and previous meeting minutes.** Approval of the a Minutes and agenda moved by Molly, seconded by Jodi. Motion carried.
4. **Financial reports.** The financial reports were sent out prior to the meeting. Kim R. shared the notes from Connie about the financial report.
5. **Minister's report:**
This week, I'm gathering with 30 UU ministers from across the prairie states, for an annual study group with paper presentations on different topics each year. This year is related to climate justice, and ways for faith communities like ours to find our voice within both the public conversation and spiritual resilience. It has been a good week so far, and I'm reminded that my time with colleagues is nourishing to both my soul and mind, and for you as co-leaders of our church and its resources, I can assure you such gatherings strengthen my ministry and, I hope, in turn benefit our church. Beyond that, I'm also reminded that creating opportunities for connection and community within our church feels even more vital in these post/lingering covid days. Being with people who attend to each other's soul and life with care and shared values is life-sustaining – and we all need it.

As a brief update, for those who were here this past Sunday you know the church was fairly full, especially at 11:00, and both services included a group child dedication, blessing several young children in the life of the church. One newer child, who was not part of it, asked her mom, “*why didn't you sign us up for that!*” 😊 I expect more of these in the near future, and it was a joy-filled and nourishing ritual for me, and I think all those gathered.

I mention both of these things as small indicators of health. I'm reminded, in conversation with my colleagues this week, that our church is in a minority of churches that, all things considered, is alive and vibrant. Attendance is increasing, new families and individuals are visiting and coming back, and programs are returning in strong ways. While we take nothing for granted and we know things can change quickly (we know this far too well these days), these are things to celebrate, build on, and be grateful for.

As we enter a time where many gather with family or friends (including at the church again this year), may we each find the nourishment of mind, body, and soul we need – so that we continue to embody our values of justice and inclusion, celebration and love. I know I need it – I'm sure you do too, and so do all our people.

Old business

6. Shared Ministry Team Updates: for the full reports go to:

<https://uurochmn.org/shared-ministry-team-meetings/>

- Shared Ministry Governance Team – Kim R
A revision of the bylaws has been started to reflect the shared ministry approach to governance. The team is working through what should be bylaws and what should be policy. Once there is a draft, it will go to the shared ministry team, then a bylaws team, and then eventually to the board. Revised bylaws will be shared with the congregation at a forum prior to the annual meeting.
- Administration – Kim E. & Walt
Meets on Sunday 11/20
- Congregational Life – Jodi
Membership has grown from 386 members prior to covid to the current number of 390. There are some guidelines from the UUA when the congregation grows to 400 – 450 members. New name tags for all were created. Chalice circle participation is down from pre-COVID times. Walden Hills Wednesdays are being well attended. Hospitality is struggling getting all the links on the webpage communicated. They are looking for improving the ease of use and also making a poster version available for members in the commons. A women's retreat is being planning for 2023.
- Faith Development – John T & Kim R.
Will be meeting in Jan.
- Financial Stewardship – John H.
Have not yet met. The auction was a huge success for both immigration justice and exceeding the fundraising goal.
- Social Justice – Brianna & Molly

Has not yet met but are planning an informal Social Justice fair between services on 11/20. Terri Allred will be invited to a meeting with the board after the building vote to re-engage with the work on the sexual harassment policy.

- Worship & Music – Paul
Services are being well attended with an average of between 80 – 90 people at each service. The group is looking at how to evaluate the services and if they are meeting the needs of the congregation.

7. Building Our Future:

<https://uurochmn.org/buildingourfuture/>

- Reflections about Forums to date. Lots of great ideas have been shared at the forums and that there are lots of options moving forward. It is great to bring the experts forward so the congregation can learn from them directly. The fireside chats also create a great opportunity to engage with the congregation, share information, and explore questions. The forums are also clarifying that it is a congregational decision, NOT a board decision.
- Plan for future topics/date. The survey monkey voting process has been tested and it is verified that it works both for couples that share an email and for voting from the same device. The names do need to be collected to verify voter eligibility. They will go through them on the Thursday after the various opportunities to vote. They will send a reminder to those who have not yet voted. The vote closes at 3:00 pm Sunday, January 29th. We would then want Rachael in on the conversation about next steps in February.

New Business

8. **Date for December Board meeting** (current date conflicts with Winter Solstice Celebration). Monday and Tuesday of those weeks were discussed as options. 12/12, 12/13, 12/19 or 12/20 at 6:00. Kim R will discuss with Luke to finalize a date.

9. Other

A member of the property committee has some concerns about some taller trees and suggested that they be looked at. It is recommended that an arborist be contacted to evaluate the risk the trees present. Kim R. will contact Erika to follow up.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: Tuesday December 20, 6:30

Reflection theme: Wonder – John T.

Respectfully submitted, Kimberly Edson, Secretary

