



## Board Meeting – October 19, 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:

1. **Call to order.** Kim R. called the meeting to order.
2. **Chalice Lighting & Reflection.** Kim R. shared a reflection on courage from the soul matters.
3. **Motion to approve agenda and previous meeting minutes.** Approval of the a Minutes moved by Walt., seconded by Molly. Approval of the amended Agenda moved by John H. and seconded by John T. Motion carried.
4. **Financial reports.** The financial reports were sent out prior to the meeting. John H. answer questions raised by the board.
  - a. Connie reported to the board that we have received a check from Church Mutual Insurance for some of the storm damage. Church Mutual estimated that the repair of the roof will be \$52,179.86 and sent a check for \$38,897.82 with \$10,782.04 (depreciation) to be paid upon completion. There is also a \$2,500 deductible for this claim. The estimate from Merit however came in at \$74,006. Negotiations are now taking place between Church Mutual and Merit. We received a bill from Servpro for the water clean-up for \$14,933.64. That was sent to Church Mutual and they are assessing this bill to make sure it is in line with industry standards. Assuming it is, they will reimburse this amount.
5. **Minister's report:**

This fall, I'm experiencing "all the feels", as my generational peers say, about congregational life. It means, at least in this instance, that it is a combination of many feeling and experiences: joy, gratitude, fatigue, exhaustion, nourishment, hope, anxiousness, beauty, grief, belonging, love.

I'm sure you are, too, whether in church or other parts of life. There is an intensity about it given the still re-gathering nature of programming right now (re-starting things, still navigation Covid levels, etc.), in addition to the larger conversations about governance, building, and more. I find myself both deeply glad to be able

to re-gather, and acutely reminded that the work of community is always a bit messy, a bit unclear, with lots of opinions and surprises and diversity of thought and feeling. And that is good. And complicated. And it is the work I love.

We could talk numbers, a bit: attendance seems healthy on Sundays, Wednesday evenings are lively, and newcomers and new leaders are taking on roles and tasks with glad and generous hearts. By and large, I feel our governance shifts has set us up well to re-enter this new chapter in our church's life, allowing folks more flexibility as well as staff support and guidance to finding meaningful ways to serve, and be nourished, in the life of the church.

I was reminded recently, in a letter from a young adult member that I'll share with you, about the importance of communities like this. In a time of over-connectivity through social media and more (which can be both helpful and hindering), so many struggle with a feeling of isolation on deeper levels, at many ages. Mostly, what we do, which is not about programmatic production on demand (many places do that, and can do it better in certain ways), is build relationship. We do so through small groups, ways to volunteer and serve, gatherings for fellowship and spiritual growth, ritual and experiences of awe and wonder. Throughout this whole building and governance process, I hope we are about providing spaces that help people feel connected to their own soul and to the larger family of all souls. In that work, we make connections with each other – almost always in small, intersecting circles, since we have been too large of a church for everybody to know everyone for quite some time.

Instead, my hope in this messy, beautiful work of community, is to remember that amidst all of the details and the adaptations and “newness” of doing things, there are ancient things that hold us together more deeply: ritual and song, breaking bread and fellowship, learning from each other, and, in the words of one of the songs this past Sunday, *to sit and read, and dream, about the world*. We are about providing space enough for one another to help alleviate our isolation, to connect us to each other, and in that way, move together toward an undefined and hopeful future.

In closing, I'm reminded of these words from the author John Updike that remind me of the work toward a major vote that is much of what is on my heart these days, so this I leave you with:

*There was a time when I wondered why more people did not go to church.  
Taken purely as a human recreation,  
what could be more delightful, more unexpected  
than to enter a venerable and lavishly scaled building  
kept warm and clean for us one or two hours a week  
and to sit and stand in unison and sing and recite [words]  
that are like paths worn smooth in the raw terrain of our hearts?*

*...to witness the windows donated by departed patrons  
and the altar flowers arranged by withdrawn hands  
to pay, for all this, no more than we are moved to give-  
surely in all democracy there is nothing like it.*

*In church we are given our real value, the soul-unit of one,  
with its nominal arithmetic of equality: one equals one.*

## **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  
Happy with how the 25<sup>th</sup> went and see the teams connect. The goal setting and work was inspiring. The next task for this committee is to work on the by-laws. A draft will be crafted by Greg and Kim and then reviewed by the Shared Ministry team and then brought to a by-laws committee for feedback. It will go back to the Shared Ministry team. Once they are in agreement, it will go to the board and then ultimately to the congregation. We expect the policies to come to the board a few at a time.
- Administration – Kim E. & Walt  
The goals are to have the sub-groups attend meetings, keep the building habitable, and gather more participants
- Congregational Life – Jodi  
Chalice circle samples are being explored
- Faith Development – John T & Kim R.  
RE forums are being considered to share the curriculum with the congregation. The goals are to Increase the volunteers/participation in the RE wing. Currently 10 volunteers are needed each Sunday (3 for choice rooms at 9:00; 2 Middle school and 2 high school facilitators at 10:15 – 10:45; 3 for choice rooms at 11:00) b. Monitor consistency of participation of the kids who come to RE
- Financial Stewardship – John H.  
Currently working on the Auction for Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>.  
Goals for the year a. Update financial policies and procedures b. Update bylaws that pertain to finance c. Review UUA guidelines for financial stewardship on UUA website d. Set up graphs and “at a glance” financials (John and Connie) e. Make use of Realm and/or Google docs to share financials f. Review church finance basics with Katherine and Beth (Connie)
- Social Justice – Brianna & Molly
- • To reconnect with subgroups and their members and help promote their efforts, i.e., welcoming congregation on transgender justice, classism, etc. • To be the conduit for connection and awareness

between congregants and justice opportunities within the church and the community. • To offer forums, book reads, etc. that provide deeper reflection within the context of our UU values. • To select shared plate recipients that not only mirror our values but address the most pressing justice needs that may arise. • To update the printed volunteer brochure. • To have current and relevant information on the church website. • To address our institutional practice of justice, i.e., socially responsible investments, staff compensation, environmental use of our space, etc. • Begin congregational discussion of the 8th Principle.

- Music – Paul

This team works with the worship team. They discussed some ideas for increasing the diversity of offerings. The group meets monthly by does not necessarily document their work.

## 7. Building Our Future:

- Rachel Maxwell forum 10/2 The highlights of the forum were discussed. The needs of the building were reiterated. The vote is a vote of intention and can change. What if this building was not built who would not be here. Who needs to be here and cannot. There is a need to also get the younger voices who may not have been the demographic who have attended the forums. A forum focusing on this demographic has been set for Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>. It is a multi-step process. Focus on the goals, then do the capitol campaign.
- Plan for future topics/dates <https://uurochmn.org/buildingourfuture/>

### **Sunday, October 30, at 12:30-2 pm – Sanctuary/Livestreamed**

All about roots and change: Reflections from Hanneke Van Deursen, who grew up in our church and is now in architectural school; followed by small group conversations. (*Hanneke's drawings will be displayed in the Commons throughout the morning*)

**Wednesday, November 9, at 7-8 pm** All about location – with guest realtor Dan Groteboer

**Saturday, December 3, at 10 am – Young Families Gathering**

### **Sunday, December 4 at 12:30-2 pm – Sanctuary/Livestreamed**

All about architectural perspective: Stay vs. go – with guests from Locus Architecture

**Wednesday, December 14 at 7-8 pm –**

All about us – small group conversations

**Wednesday, January 11 at 7-8 pm** All about our future – final review of research, costs, and conversations

**Sunday, January 22 at 12:30 pm Forum & Meeting (Voting Opens)**

**Grace notes will be due by mid Dec. for an early Jan.** publication. Building our Future will plan to share their recommendations in this publication. Paul will be contributing to Grace Notes for the board and may want to consider addressing the mechanics of the building Vote.

- Wording of January vote John T. moved and Walt moved to approve the sharing the wording of the vote. Copies will be available at the next building forum.
- Process of January vote

**New Business**

8. **2022 Mike Podulke Annual Service Auction – Nov. 5** Addressed in the finance committee report
9. **Trees** – tabled until next time.

**Meeting adjourned.**

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, November 16 7:00

**Reflection theme:** Change - Jodi

Respectfully submitted, Kimberly Edson, Secretary