



Board Meeting – September 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, Jodi Edmonson, John Tacinelli & Walt Rothwell, Members at Large, Reb. Luke Stevens-Royer, ex officio

Absent: Molly Dingel

1. **Call to order.** The meeting was called to order by Kim Reid.
2. **Chalice Lighting & Reflection.** Brianna shared her reflections inspired by the Transforming Hearts training and recent forum topics.
3. **Guest:** Shari Mason is a UU aspirant. She is on a path to transfer her ministerial credentials to the UUA and has asked for our Church to provide a Congregational Sponsorship as one of her steps. Sponsorship moved by John T., seconded by Walt motion carried.
4. **Motion to approve agenda and previous meeting minutes.** Approval of the agenda and Minutes moved by John H., seconded by Walt. Motion carried.
5. **Financial reports.** The financial reports were sent out prior to the meeting. John H. answer questions raised by the board.
6. **Minister's report:**
*Linda Pastan writes,
A flurry of leaves at the window
like those calendar pages flying in old movies
to indicate time passing, and it is passing,
though where it's going nobody seems to know.
Something is always lost and something found —*

This fall feels like a beautiful flurry, with a bit of frenzy, uncertainty, and hope. It is a mixture that any good program year seems to begin with. So far, our switch to two services has mimicked pre-pandemic years of returning to larger attendance than the summer, even if we're average a bit under pre-pandemic numbers (though, to be honest, not as much as we anticipated.)

Wednesday suppers have started strong, which of course was in part due to the draw of last week's building forum. I believe we are creating a clear direction for conversation and engagement in these coming months. I also know that, given the disruption of the last two years and this being a time of re-gathering, their will

be tenderness through this process. As leaders, I offer the best advice I've received from colleagues and mentors in ministry, which you undoubtedly have heard, too, in various forms: to engage big, important, challenging conversations with two frames of reference: *offer a non-anxious presence and speak the truth in love*.

As we move into these conversations and continue deep conversations about our governance at the same time, I think it important to reflect on the balance of *individual* and *community*, especially in positions of leadership. As a Board, your goal is, generally, to speak with a unified voice (you can read a UUA article about this [HERE](#)). This doesn't mean extreme censorship of personal opinions, but it does mean to be a model within the congregation of how to have these conversations, how to share honestly, and how to be highly receptive as the Board makes decisions and moves the process forward. It also means taking the time, as a Board, to be sure each voice is equitably heard, and ultimately accountable to the mission of the church. Sometimes, not every decision or perspective will be universally shared, but if there is trust built on relationship and respect, usually Board's can feel good about the *process* of decision making, together.

So I leave with that invitation to us all: to remember to be in the work together, even, and especially when, it's challenging. *Together* is the whole basis of our tradition of *covenant* – meaning how do we promise to travel together. In this church, may we travel through these coming months with our mission in mind: compassion, spiritual growth, and justice.

Old business

7. Shared Ministry Team Updates:

- Jodi provided an update on the Congregational Life shared ministry team which recently met.
- Brianna provided an update on the Social Justice Transforming Hearts training. It will be delayed until the facilitator is able to consider it.
- There will be a shared ministry start up meeting on Sunday, Sep
- 25 from 1-4

8. Building Our Future:

- A summary of the building our Future forum was discussed. There was a lot of thoughtful discussion at the forum.
- Rachel Maxwell is coming to Rochester on Sunday Oct. 2nd She will be touring the building at 5:00 and there will be a 7:00 form where she will provide a brief recap of her report

9. Update on the Building RE wing damage: The RE wing is open. The roof will be replaced in the Spring. The Church is still awaiting more information from the insurance company as to what will be covered.

10. Sex Offender Policy: There is an interest in finishing this work. Teri Allred was very involved in the initial work and it will be revisited later.

New Business

- 11. Approve POP 125 Form:** The board needs to pass a resolution to sign this IRS form to be in compliance with the pre-tax deduction of health insurance from staff pay checks. John H., seconded by Brianna. Motion carried.
- 12. Wednesday Meals, Forums, and Board times.** The team is getting ready to resume Wednesday activities in September. It was decided that there would not be any forums on the Wednesday the board meets and that the board meetings would start at 7:00.
- 13. Other Financial reports:** Paul and others requested an orientation on how to read and interpret the church financial statements. John H. will lead a training/Forum soon.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 19, 7:00

Reflection theme: Courage – Kim R.

Respectfully submitted, Kimberly Edson, Secretary