



Board Meeting – January 18, 2023

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.** Molly shared a reflection on “Finding our Center”.

Hope Is Not a Bird, Emily, It's a Sewer Rat by Caitlin Seida

Hope is not the thing with feathers
That comes home to roost
When you need it most.

Hope is an ugly thing
With teeth and claws and
Patchy fur that's seen some shit.

It's what thrives in the discards
And survives in the ugliest parts of our world,
Able to find a way to go on
When nothing else can even find a way in.
It's the gritty, nasty little carrier of such
diseases as optimism, persistence,
Perseverance and joy,

Transmissible as it drags its tail across
your path and
bites you in the ass.

Hope is not some delicate, beautiful bird,
Emily.

It's a lowly little sewer rat
That snorts pesticides like they were
Lines of coke and still
Shows up on time to work the next day
Looking no worse for wear.

3. **Motion to approve agenda and previous meeting minutes.** Approval of the Agenda –moved by Molly, seconded by John Motion carried. Approval of the Dec. regular meeting minutes moved by Walt, seconded by Brianna, Motion carried. Approval of the Jan. 12th special minutes moved by Paul, seconded by Walt. Motion carried.
4. **Financial reports.** The financial reports were sent out prior to the meeting. John reviewed the highlights. There was a steep increase in the insurance premium. It was recommended that the finance team review it and consider alternatives.
5. **Minister's report:**
Luke shared the work he and study he is involved with in the larger faith community.

This month is a brief update on a few items, and then a fuller discussion of the proposed sabbatical plan in associated documents. Related to that, I wanted to give an update for your awareness about other professional development and service activities I'm involved in:

- Current co-chair of the UU Minister's Association "Prairie Star" Chapter, including Minnesota, the Dakotas, Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska
- Member of *Prairie Group*, an annual UU minister academic study group
- Participant in UU "Ministry Days" and UU "Center Institute" annual conferences.
- Community Board member of the Rochester Jeremiah Program
- Member of two UU collegial reflection circles
- Participant in a Calvin Seminary Center for Excellence in Preaching peer group, funded by the Lilly Foundation, focused on evolving multi-platform practices in worship over the last few years (by invitation of Rev. Jenny Cannon at Christ UMC in Rochester)

More "in-house" updates include:

- Our Assistant for Faith Development, Chantelle Fedderson, has put in more hours as needs have changed throughout this year, so we are increasing her hours and pay from 5 hours/week to 10 hours/week for the remainder of this church year.
- The UUA has released its "Article 2 Study Commission" report, which will be discussed this summer and potentially voted on next summer, which includes a re-write and re-framing of our principles and sources (upcoming forums discussing this are planned.)

As we move into a major vote in the life of our church, I am grateful for the steady, thoughtful, and mission-focused leadership of this church. I encourage

us all as leaders to attend to these coming days, to our members and ourselves, with many impending complexities of logistics, mind, and heart, with a sense of grace and gentleness and love as large as the embrace of Universalism that brought this congregation into being.

It will be hard, we know, and the road will be muddy and rough – but we'll get there – we know within.

In faith,
Luke

Luke also shared his sabbatical plan from Jan. 4th – April 7th, 2024, for board review. There will be some operational activities that will need to be supported by the board during the sabbatical. It will also be shared with the congregation.

Old business

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

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

- Shared Ministry Governance Team (meets 1/31)
A bylaws draft is being worked on.
- Administration (met 1/15)
Walt spoke about his meeting with the memorial garden team and deciding to change the wording in the Memorial Garden policy from “sample” to “sampling.” Kim suggested it might be less confusing for all if we changed it to “multiple samples.” We agreed. Kim said for us to wait until the Board begins its policy review and they will ask for changes from groups.
The History committee is also considering their future needs.
A property workday A full church property workday (inside and outside) is needed regardless of how the vote turns out. It was decided to hold a full church workday a Saturday in May. Perhaps the 13th of May.
- Congregational Life (meets 1/25)
- Faith Development (1/8 meeting postponed)
The meeting was postponed due to pilgrimage service that included a number of members. There was some discussion of the budget, and they are on track. An adjustment to Chantel’s hours needed to be made to reflect the work.
- Financial Stewardship (meets 1/20)
There is some duplication between the bylaws and the finance policies. These are going to be re-aligned with UUA guidelines.
- Social Justice (postponed until 1/25)
- Worship and Music (met 1/11)

Two new members are joined to consider becoming members of the worship associates' team. The winter holiday services were reviewed, and a music service is coming soon.

Organ is broken and needs repair. The Chalice choir will start meeting weekly starting in February. Concerns about the COVID outbreak during the Christmas Eve service were shared.

7. Upcoming Congregational Vote (info/ballot/membership)

Chalice circle volunteers will be staffing the voting table. Board members will be available in the hearth room during the voting process. John T. 10 – 10:30, Kim E from 10:30 – 11: and 11:30 – 12

Tupper Supper – Kim R

Following Sunday

The copy of the ballot was reviewed. There was a suggestion to add the costs to the ballot. This was discussed and there are so many variables related to the costs. It was decided it would be better to direct voters to the study documents to allow those who need more information to make their vote. Motion to approve the ballot was moved by Molly, John H seconded. Motion carried.

A discussion of the bylaws related to membership was reviewed. There were 8 members who have not been communication with the church despite multiple attempts. A motion to terminate 8 members based on the bylaws. It was also moved that if any of these 8 members do submit a vote then their membership will be re-instated. John H. moved, Walt seconded. Motion carried.

8. Update on plan for revising Sexual Offender Policy

Terri Allred will be invited to the next board meeting to review the draft policy and a forum will be held in March to share. This policy was almost ready to move forward but then the pandemic hit and deferred final approval.

New Business

9. Congregational Vote Celebration 1/29 5:30pm for dinner

Family members are welcome to attend – it is a potluck. The Building the Future team will be the guests of the board. Kim R. made food assignments for board members. 30 people are anticipated. Zoom option requested

Voting counting will be ongoing throughout the week and the final tally will start at 3:00 and certified by Kim E. and John H.

The voting announcement will go out as soon as possible.

10. Moving Forward with Rachel Maxwell meeting will be on 2/5 12:30

11. Realm questions

A member was missing the member directory and was struggling to use Realm. There is a directory, but it is password protected. The office can provide the assistance with the password.

Additional efforts will be made to educate the congregation on the use of Realm.

12. Other

On board meeting dates, the forums have been set aside for possible board open house. Next steps forum suggested for 2/15 as a follow-up to the Maxwell meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meetings: February 15, 2023

Reflection theme: Love, Paul

Respectfully submitted, Kimberly Edson, Secretary