

**UUCSC Board of Directors Meeting
January 19, 2022**

Present: President Elizabeth Donovan, VP Elise Bender, Treasurer Mary Alice Kimball, Clerk Mary Fulton, Directors Charlie Donnelly, Trish Hindley and Bill Rodriguez

Guests: Jeff Berry and Aline Conture

Call to Order: 6:00 PM by Elizabeth Donovan

Reading of Covenant: Elizabeth Donovan

Invocation: Rev. Denis Paul - May all of our business be a call to faith

Check in

MOTION: Elizabeth moves to ratify the December Board minutes that were approved via email. PASSED unanimously.

Staff reports: Appended at the end of the minutes. Discussion about using a fire pit for RE led to the decision to seek more information about the type of use desired, fire regulations and insurance as well as how the condo board would view such a request.

Liaison reports: The Music committee is planning a mini concert for mid February.

The Worship committee is feeling quite stretched due to various personal issues.

The Communications committee is working to resolve issues that have arisen while Zooming.

The Membership committee has worked with the office administrator to update the membership list. People are indicated as active or inactive. Elise is working with Randi Marten to make a phone tree calling list.

Treasurers report: Pledges are being paid well as people prepare to file tax reports.

The mortgage account has accumulated another \$7500.00. The mortgage balance is currently \$45,442.00. The AGAPE fund is being revised to make it easier for the minister to access it in an emergency situation.

MOTION: Mary Alice moves that the \$50,000.00 bequest from Carolyn Hurdis be moved from an operating fund to a special Board designated restricted fund. PASSED unanimously.

The Finance committee recommended that the Board appoint a task force to determine how this fund would be used. It was agreed that Elise would contact people to serve in this capacity.

MOTION: Elizabeth moves not to accept a donation of \$500.00 that would be restricted for an elevator fund. PASSED: 6 yes, 1 abstention

MOTION: Elizabeth moves to accept a donation of \$1000.00 that will be added to the budget line for the purchase of technology. PASSED Unanimously.

New Business:

Finance Committee Presentation: Jeff Berry spoke about how our pledging income has decreased over the past 5 years. The demographics of an aging congregation indicate that this decline is likely to continue so the committee recommends that the board develop a three-year (2021-2024) strategic plan to address financial issues and goals. A print copy of the proposal is on file with the clerk.

February Worship Services: Rev. Denis is experimenting with 2 services; one in person at 10:00 and one on Zoom at 11:15 to be followed by a virtual sermon reflection time at noon. The Worship committee does not plan to do two services when they do their monthly lay service.

Stewardship: The pledge campaign theme will be Show Your Love for UUCSC. The campaign will kick off with the February 13th service. Every active member will receive a pledge packet. Our goal is to get \$200,000.00 in pledges. The campaign plans to be complete by mid March.

Committee on Ministry: The 4 new members of this committee met virtually with Charlie Donnelly (Board liaison) and Rev. Denis. Their job description will be broadened to serve as a resource for the minister, rather than as a defensive support.

Fundraising: In April, after the Pledging Campaign is completed, the Board is planning to have an auction that will incorporate Dining for \$\$\$. Trish and Elizabeth have offered to work on this but a chairperson and other volunteers are still needed.

Adjourned 8:20.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Fulton, Clerk

February Meetings

Board Meeting: February 16, 6-8

March Meetings

Board Retreat: March 2, 1-5

Coordinating Council: March 9, 4-5:30

Appendix:

Staff reports for January 2022

**Minister's Report to the Board of Trustees
UU Congregation of South County
Rev. Denis Letourneau Paul**

January 15, 2022

Dear Members of the Board of Trustees,

I have been using this format for my board reports for over ten years now. It has worked well for me, and apparently the boards and congregations I've served. If there is some other format you would like to use, or if you feel anything is missing please let me know.

It's been a super-busy few weeks since I started, and I get the feeling I've been doing just about all of what I should be doing because at the Coordinating Council Meeting this week, everything that came up was something I was already aware of. Whew!

January Worship

1/2/22 "Spiritual Lessons from the World's Slowest House Flipper," with Linda Whyte-Burrell

1/9/22 "This Isn't Our First Pandemic"

1/16/22 "Cannonball Moments," serving as Worship Associate for Rev. Dr. Joan Cavanagh

1/23/22 "Into the Unknown," with Rev. Betty Kornitzer

Due to Covid (Oh, how I've come to hate that expression) all services for January are happening online only. We've been following the Zoom services with "coffee hours" that are functioning a lot like "sermon reflections," with an encouraging amount of deep sharing and listening, related to the topic of the sermon. In order to encourage more engagement and address the shifting needs of the congregation, **the worship committee would like your approval to offer two services for the first three Sundays in February:**

We would like to offer a 10 AM service in person, in the sanctuary AND another service at 11:15 (or so) via Zoom. For the online service, I'd like to facilitate from the sanctuary and follow it with a coffee hour/sermon reflection at a fixed time, open to everyone, regardless of which service they attended. These services will take more

effort than one, and should obviate the need for recorded services on YouTube, so I plan on not doing them for those three services.

Meetings and events within UUCSC since our last meeting

- Weekly supervision with Lee and Sara
- Monthly staff meeting with Mike, Lee and Sara
- Monthly meeting with board chair Elizabeth Donovan
- Solstice Spiral Walk
- Two stewardship committee meetings
- Two worship committee meetings
- Committee on ministry
- Coordinating council
- Pastoral care committee

Meetings and events outside of UUCSC (Outreach) since our last meeting

- Meeting with UUA regional staff liaison Wren Bellavance-Grace (who let me know that the staff-assisted “start up weekends” they used to offer are no longer happening.)
- Meeting with Rush, from Pride Youth South County about how we can work together
- Conversations with two local UCC ministers to talk about the South County Interfaith Clergy Association. (Meetings have been sporadic, but we planned one for 1/19/22 with introducing me as the reason for gathering.)
- I’ve been posting weekly facebook videos on Friday as “teasers” or invitations to come to the service. (Each week, I’ve gotten several “shares” and at least a couple messages from folks saying they plan to go but wouldn’t have if they hadn’t seen the video. So that seems to be working!)

Small Group Engagement

As I meet with congregants there is one sentiment I hear repeatedly and consistently above all others: “We need more opportunities in our congregation to engage with small groups.” I mentioned to the Coordinating Council (which I’m thinking of as “The Sisterhood of Getting It Done”) that I was hoping to hear more about the various affinity groups, small group ministries, covenant groups, interest groups, and recurring events geared toward sections of the congregation. They expressed their support in helping to gather a group of stakeholders, people interested in and active with the topic.

My hope is to identify the different groups meeting, their history, what they call themselves and how that has evolved, their goals, expectations, and especially their openness to new participants, so that we can have a common understanding and shared language. It’s also important that all of this information be communicated to the

larger congregation, as we explore new and varied ways of gathering in the midst of the pandemic — and beyond.

Ultimately, I think our goal as a congregation should be for small groups to deepen engagement, welcome and ensconce newcomers, and serve the long-term health and vibrancy of the congregation. All while continuing to serve the needs that current groups are meeting.

One-to-One conversations to date: 25

Next Furlough Week: January 24 through 1/31

In December, because the month started on a Wednesday and included two holidays, the schedule wasn't *exactly* three weeks on and one week off, but it worked out, and January and February are more regular. Sara has been posting my monthly schedule outside my door, on the congregation's online calendar, and in the order of service. Nobody seems confused or put off. In fact, the feedback I've been getting is consistent that people appreciate knowing what to expect.

In Peace,
Rev Denis Letourneau Paul

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Rev. Denis Paul
Unitarian Universalist Minister

January 14, 2022

Dear Board,

In the past month, I have continued working with Etta to take over more of the newsletter production. I am working with Mary Alice and Aline to take on writing checks and Lee showed me how to set up Zoom meetings. Jean Burke showed me how to flush the boiler and we added that to my list of weekly tasks.

I participated in a meeting of the Stewardship Committee and shared some "tricks of the trade" from my time at United Way of Rhode Island, which, I hope, were helpful.

I met with Elise Bender, who provided an updated Members and Friends list in preparation for the certification process and am working on updating the Excel file for future mailings.

Rev. Denis and I have both noticed that Tuesdays and Wednesdays are packed full of tasks and I have proposed a change to my hours to allow for more efficient completion of these tasks. The proposed hours are 8:30 to 2:30, Tuesday, Wednesday and

Thursday and 8:30 to 11:30 Fridays. I think having consistent hours will also help people keep track of when the office is staffed. Rev. Denis and Elizabeth Donovan both agree that this is a good idea and I plan to start revised office hours the week of Jan. 24.

All in all, my skill set continues to expand and I am hopeful that I will continue to learn things that help me better fulfill my role with the congregation.

Best,

Sara Kaplow

Office Administrator

January 2022
FA Report to the Board

Dear Board members,

This month the priorities are to work on monthly financial activities and calendar year end tasks. I will be reviewing QuickBooks in the next week to see if any 1099's need to be issued. I am currently working with Mary Alice on the UUA certification financial information which is almost complete and will be ready for her review soon.

Most importantly I need to get my internet working, LOL.

Regards,
Sue

January, 2022
DRE Board Report

Dear Board,

We have taken many Sundays off this month, opting for a day off instead of a virtual RE. The

RE committee and I decided that we would send out newsletters with asynchronous virtual

offerings, instead of having an RE Zoom meet. I think this reaches more families and there are

only a few families who engage in zoom meetings.

The gatherings we have had have been wonderful. We got to use the evergreen spiral in the

snow and build a snow person. We loved the solstice service and look forward to many more

multi-gen services. Rev. Denis and I are excited for a Valentine's day multi-gen.

One change that the RE Committee and I decided to try, possibly starting in February, is having a two hour window for RE, from 10am-noon. This would give parents and kids the chance to be part of worship for the first hour, and also be part of our sharing circle outside for the second hour. We would offer free play time, with a craft or activity at 10am and then have our circle time after service, around 11am.

I'm planning to hold our second annual Stuffed Animal Sleepover at the end of January. Very exciting.

I will also be planning Saturday morning hikes starting in February and hope that adults and kids can enjoy these outings together.

One question for the board is that we would love to be able to have a fire pit in the backyard. It could either be something dug out and lined with bricks, or a portable metal fire bowl. It would add so much to our chilly outside gatherings, and create a focal point for our time together. I

have been in touch with Jean Burke and she thinks it's not likely that the condo association will approve this idea, but she's willing to ask. We just need board approval first.

The classrooms are all looking really good. I did a first pass at setting back up the youth room,

and now I'm excited to bring in things (like a sewing machine and other crafts for older kids) that will be interesting to the middle schoolers that we currently have.

I'm still looking for floor and desk lamps to offer better lighting for our inside circle space. Would

also still love to find someone who is able to reupholster the glider rocker in the nursery. I'll put these requests in the newsletter.

Thanks for all your work and support

Much love,

Lee