

**UUCSC Board of Directors Meeting
February 16, 2022**

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

Call to Order: 6:10 PM by Elizabeth Donovan

Reading of Covenant: Elizabeth Donovan

Invocation: Rev. Denis Paul

Check in

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

Staff Reports: A recent security breach that apparently is related to our online directory was discussed. The weekly e-news will post a notice warning congregants not to open suspicious emails.

Treasurer's Report: The Agape fund has been made more accessible to the minister. The mortgage balance is now about \$45,000. An estimate based on current pledge receipts and expenses indicates a potential shortfall of approximately \$30,000. Savings set aside from last year and a spring fundraiser may ameliorate this situation. Fundraising must be a major priority. It will be recommended that the full dues requested by the UUA be part of next years budget.

Committee Updates: Jeff Berry will chair the task force studying how best to use the bequest made by Carolyn Hurdis.

Pledge packets were distributed at the 2/13 in person service and the remainder was mailed. Information regarding the pledge campaign will appear in the e-news for the next 3 weeks. The campaign should be winding up March 4th.

Communications News: Etta Zasloff wrote an article about Rev. Denis that appeared in the *Narragansett Times*. The *Independent* newspaper did an interview that should appear soon.

Facilities: Sally Barney needs to reduce the time she spends at UUCSC. A different method for opening and closing the building on Sundays was discussed. Elise Bender will set up a simple plan.

Committee on Ministry: Mary Finnegan will chair this committee.

Old Business: RE request: Although the Board supports multigenerational activities, the small outdoor space and shared ownership issues prohibit approval of a fire pit.

Ministers contract: Both Rev. Denis and the Board thought the probationary period went well so the current contract will run till July of 2023. Much gratitude was expressed.

Sunday services: Worship has been experimenting with an in person service and a Zoom service with a sermon reflection period at the end. This format will continue until changes in the pandemic indicate another plan will better serve the congregation. The Board will continue to investigate live streaming. Issues that need consideration are copyright compliance, the privacy of joys and concerns, hardware needs and people to do the filming, editing and posting. A time adjustment might be worthwhile.

Adjourned 8:04.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Fulton, Clerk

Minister's Report to the Board of Trustees

UU Congregation of South County

Rev. Denis Letourneau Paul

February 12 , 2022

Dear Members of the Board of Trustees,

When I was hired back in November, we agreed that at the end of February we would discuss renewing my contract for Aug 2022 through July 2023. I'd like you to know that I would be happy to do that, and hope you are as eager to continue our relationship. The more I get to know everyone involved, and about the system itself, the more I feel like this could turn into a productive relationship over the long term. The contract, rather than "settled," relationship we've agreed to will give us all the flexibility to adapt to needs as they arise, and enjoy the time we have together, without stressful expectations of longevity.

January Worship

2/6/22 "Spheres of Influence," with Cathy Solomon

2/13/22 "Languages of Love," with Lee Cowan

2/20/22 "Higher Law"

As of this writing, we've only had one Sunday with two services: one in-person at 10 and one via Zoom at 11:15. At the risk of assessing and evaluating too early, it feels like it's going well, and responding to the divergent sets of needs as hoped for. The Worship Committee is expecting to continue the service model through March up to April 17. There's consensus that when the weather is better a letter service won't be well attended, and we may be able to hold one service at 10 outdoors, or indoors with windows wide open. We're trying to respond to current needs without planning too far into an unknown future.

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
- Monthly Board meeting
- Two worship committee meetings
- Men's breakfast
- Start up meeting of the new right relations committee
- Three Beverages and Banter gatherings (2 by Zoom, 1 in person)
- Regular monthly meetings of the following committees: committee on ministry; pastoral care; finance and social justice

I've been trying to work with Etta to get January service recordings up to the congregation's YouTube channel (instead of my own) and to start to figure out what to do about the security issues with the website, but haven't found the time to dedicate to it. Congregation members and friends are receiving emails from a hacker, claiming to be me, and using a bogus email address that looks like it could be mine, but isn't. Sadly some folks are sending emails to that one, instead of my real one. I'll try I to get that resolved this week.

Pastoral care needs have been brisk this month, with deaths, memorial planning and some illnesses. The pastoral care team has been great, and I'm especially grateful for the help and support of Joan Ray who recently rejoined the committee and helped find care assistance for a congregant entering hospice.

Sally Barney and I had a great conversation about the history of small groups and Small Group Ministries (TM) aka covenant groups. I've scheduled a meeting with the point people for three groups in advance of a (yet still unplanned) congregation-wide meeting for stakeholders of small groups of all types. The hope is to better understand and make clear what is on offer so that people know what to expect, AND to think about where the gaps are so that we can meet more needs.

The Stewardship committee is doing a great job with the pledge drive, and I've lined up people to do stewardship reflections on 2/13 and 2/20 with a bit of coaching. I'm still working on 2/27 but have some good prospects.

Meetings and events outside of UUCSC (Outreach)

Each week, posting teasers for upcoming services on Facebook

Each week posting the service either on YouTube as a video or on Facebook as text

Met with Rush Frazier, the executive director of Youth Pride RI about how our organizations can work together. We're planning a service together for March about intersectionality.

South County interfaith clergy gathering

Photographed for an article Elizabeth Donovan and Etta Zasloff wrote for the Independent, which should be published soon.

One-to-One conversations: 34 as of 2/12/22

Next Furlough Week: February 21 through February 28

In Peace,

Rev Denis Letourneau Paul

Office Administrator Board Report, February, 2022

New office hours for the Office Administrator started the week of Jan. 24th. This seems to be a good change and allows me to work on the newsletter and OOS more efficiently.

Aline Couture reviewed the procedures for check writing with me and I have taken over those responsibilities, at least for the time that Aline is away. I also coordinated with Aline to produce the letters to members from the Finance committee acknowledging their 2021 charitable contributions.

Working with Mary Fulton, Sky Kimball and Debbie Johnson, I helped prepare the Stewardship Committee mailing.

Work on the updated membership list continued this month. The list provided to Aline Couture and Jeff Berry to facilitate sending out charitable donation acknowledgements contained several errors and some omissions, which have been corrected in the database. The updated, more accurate list was used to produce envelopes for the Stewardship Committee mailing.

We had some technical difficulties including a possible security breach. It seems that no information was compromised, but the gmail password needed to be changed. Sue Rogala is working to resolve some issues with the printer involving scanning which resulted from the password change. I also contacted Bart Martin of 5 Star Personal Computer who is willing to do an evaluation and offer recommendations at no charge. His information has been forwarded to Mary Alice so she can explain to him what we need to be able to assign codes for the Keypad Entry system and we will schedule a time for him to come in and look at our systems.

Best,

Sara Kaplow

Office Administrator

February 2022

FA Report to the Board

Dear Board members,

Financial activities this month included completing the Workers Compensation audit online after it was reviewed by Mary Alice. This did take more time than expected since Lee's, Mike's and Rev. Denis's salary had to be allocated between remote and onsite time. Sara had a problem with the scanner networking and printing from her computer the week before she went on vacation. I was able to fix her printing problem. After troubleshooting the scanner networking issue by myself and with Innovex the problem was still not resolved. I am hoping to get this fixed in the next few weeks. Since some bills are received close to the due date, it is really a great help to have Sara scan at the church. I do email scanned copies to others for review when needed. Also, my scanner at home is very cumbersome since you can only scan one page at a time. I will be checking mail 2x the week of Sara's vacation and putting any contributions and pledge cards received in the safe for Jeff. There was only one 1099 that was mailed in January for 2021. The 1096 will be completed and sent to the IRS before the end of February deadline.

I continue to respond to emails and answer any other requests as needed. The normal financial monthly activities continue to consume the majority of my time.

Regards,

Sue

February, 2022

DRE Board Report

Dear Board,

We have had the two Sundays of February in person and it's been wonderful. Our first Sunday was inside, downstairs and we are trying out the two hour time frame. It went very well! We will keep the 10-noon time for at least another month and see how it goes. I've heard a couple parents say they are happy to have the option to participate in the service as well as our RE circle. The multi-gen Valentine's service was wonderful as well. We're looking forward to many more multi-gens with Rev Denis!

I've been in touch with the Westminster UU DRE, as well as a parent OWL facilitator there to start to coordinate OWL with them for next year. Bethany is planning to be trained, and is reaching out to URI graduate students who might be interested in being trained as well. We are

still looking for the second trained facilitator.

We had a successful stuffed animal and doll sleepover this month! It was a wonderful way for kids to be involved at RE without having to be here in person. We even had a couple adults participate.

Rev. Denis and I are planning for several kid-oriented parts of service in the coming months, including bridging, child dedication, third grader blessing, mother's day, father's day and then flower communion. Not all of these will be their own service (though some will), but will be woven into the TFAA at the beginning of some services in May and June.

Elizabeth Donovan and I met with the fire marshall about having a fire pit, and it looks like it's possible from a fire safety standpoint. If it's too hard with the insurance or the condo association, then I'm fine with just using someone's backyard fire pit for a couple multi-gen gatherings. Our first multi-gen hike had to be canceled because of the ice storm, but our next one is planned for March 5th.

I'd also like to do more story gatherings on zoom. Let me know if there are any topics that interest you.

Thanks all,