

UUCSC Board of Directors Meeting
March 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: 6:00 PM by Elizabeth Donovan

Reading of Covenant: Charlie Donnelly

Invocation: Rev. Denis Paul

Check in

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

Staff Reports: Sara Kaplow asked whom to contact when a congregant is needed to be present during an event held by an outside party. Rev. Denis will refer her to the facilities committee contact, Jean Burke.

Treasurer's report: UUCSC is in a healthy cash position right now. Expected expenses will occur so fundraising is still a concern. Trish Hindley and Betsy Dalton have reviewed software in preparation for an events and services auction to be held between June 3 and June 12. Plans for advertising will appear in the newsletter beginning 3/18.

Stewardship: Mary Fulton - 55 pledges have been made. The \$200,000 goal is not likely to be raised. Mary requested that a task force be appointed to lay out stewardship policies and procedures for next year. The treasurer will work with Mary Fulton and one other Board approved person on this task.

Helping Hands: Bethany Sorrentino will be the point person for this group. Two other leaders are being sought to assist her.

OLD BUSINESS:

Elise has assembled a crew of Jeff Berry, Trish Hindley, Jean Burke, Aline Couture, Mary Alice and Sky Kimball to open and close the building for Sunday services.

Susan Jacobsen will join the Sunday morning Zoom tech team.

NEW BUSINESS:

Starting April 20 the Board meetings will be held at UUCSC in person from 4:00-6:00p.m. on the third Wednesday of every month.

MOTION: Elizabeth moves that due to tech problems, copyright issues, poor video quality and lack of volunteers UUCSC will not be posting Sunday services to Youtube for the foreseeable future. PASSED Unanimously.

Covid protocols were reviewed. Some steps have been taken to reduce restrictions but masks will still be required for the benefit of those among the congregation who are most vulnerable. Links to the best masks and the proper way to wear masks will be included in the newsletter. Three memorials are being planned and how to best handle them was discussed, but more discussion will occur via email.

The task force appointed to explore how to use the bequest left by Carolyn Hurdis has made their initial report. They have done a great job and their efforts are much appreciated!

MOTION: Mary Alice moves that all of the non-pledged money from the 5/29 antiracism service that will use Negro spirituals be donated to a group vetted by the worship and social justice committees. PASSED unanimously.

Mary Alice reviewed preliminary budget lines for 2022-2023. Our expenses for this year are about \$230,000. Since pledges now stand at only \$120,000 the need for additional fundraising is apparent.

Jean Bowen has worked with a group to vet organizations that will be recommended to those who wish to assist the Ukraine. The list will be published in the newsletter.

The Board is planning a way to recognize former president, Natalie Herbermann.

The General Assembly (GA) will be held in June. Delegates will need to be selected. \$800 is available for Denis to dispense for leadership training and GA scholarships.

Adjourned 8:20.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Fulton, Clerk

UUCSC Monthly Staff Reports - March 2022

March, 2022

DRE Board Report

Dear Board,

We've been having great fun in RE and upstairs. The TFAAs are so much fun and I think they're going well. We plan to make these a consistent part of service, two or three times per month. And we aim for a multi-gen service once a month. Our next multi-gen will be for May Day, which I will be leading outside. I've invited the Ladies of the Rolling Pin (Sara and I both dance with them) to dance at the end of our service that day. And I plan to put up our maypole to dance around. We are also planning a multi-gen for Mother's Day on May 8th that will include a child dedication.

I think you know we decided to drop the idea of having a fire pit. That's fine!

We had a successful multi-gen hike at Trustom Pond on March 5th. We had four adults without kids and four families, plus me and Sylvan. So it was a great mix of generations! I plan to do another hike on April 2nd. And I am organizing a beach clean up and have invited the other three UU congregations in RI to join us. We haven't set a date yet, but I'm thinking April 16th.

I am taking a Youth Mental Health First Aid course to learn skills of identifying mental health challenges or substance abuse issues in youth. It's really great so far. I'm planning to take more trainings as part of my professional development this spring and open to any suggestions of what to take.

Rev. Denis and I talked about finding me a mentor to work with: a seasoned DRE who would be available for questions and to bounce ideas around with.

It looks like Westminster UU will be hosting an OWL training in the fall. It's not confirmed yet, but if they do, it will be a great opportunity to get facilitators trained locally. We have found one more person who is interested and still looking for more. We will be asking some dads to try to find more gender balance in our facilitators. Then we could start offering OWL in the late fall or early winter.

We've been focusing on the UU Principles in RE through art, bridge building, cooperative games, sharing circles and just modeling from the adults. It's such a joy.

Hope you all are well,

Lee

March 2022

FA Report to the Board

Dear Board members,

Monthly and daily financial activities and email activity continue to take the majority of my time. I did do some work on estimating various administrative expenses for the upcoming fiscal year budget which included electricity and gas summaries for others to review. Later this month I will be working with Mary Alice on the returns of the 2022-2023 budget preparation requests. Mary Alice has done most of the budget preparation tasks this year.

Regards,
Sue

Office Administrator Board Report, March, 2022

Work on the updated membership list continued this month. I met with Elise Bender and am consulting with both her and Mary Fulton to update the list we provide to UUA, which is due March 29th.

I am in the process of reviewing the Personnel Manual and the OA job description and Handbook in preparation for the Personnel Committee Retreat next month. Revisions to the tasks required will continue to be made as things change vis-à-vis COVID restrictions.

I continue to take on more responsibility for the newsletter and website, including setting up the Constant Contact reminders for Rev. Denis' Beverages & Banter sessions.

We continue to contend with the issues caused by having to change the gmail password last month, primarily that we cannot use the scanner. Sue Rogala is working to resolve these issues and we have a call in for a service call to Innovex but I have not yet heard from them regarding scheduling a call.

As the building continues to open up to more in person gatherings, there have been more additions to the calendar. I would like to streamline the process for getting coverage for a congregational representative to be in the building for events sponsored by outside groups and am working with Elise and Rev. Denis to that end.

I took a wonderful week's vacation last month and am happy to report that everything went fine without me here. But I returned rested and refreshed and happy to be back.

Best,

Sara Kaplow

Office Administrator

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

March 11 , 2022

Dear Members of the Board of Trustees,

Two years ago this week the lockdowns started in response to Covid-19, and we're still adapting. As mask mandates are being lifted across New England and the nation, I'm proud that UUCSC is committed to easing restrictions gradually, so that we may gather more freely and so that the burden of minimizing transmission isn't borne exclusively by the most vulnerable among us.

Here are some of the things I have been working on:

March Worship

3/6/22 "Building Bridges," with Lee Cowan

3/13/22 "Intersectionality," with Rush Frazier and Lee Cowan

3/20/22 "Religiously," with Bill Rodriguez

We're continuing with our model of offering two services on the Sundays when I am leading worship, and feedback continues to be almost unanimously positive. I've been posting my sermon scripts to Facebook for those who would like to "hear" it again. I've gotten indirect feedback that some would like to see the Zoom service recorded and posted to YouTube, and while I think that would be a great idea, it's quite a bit of extra work that I just don't have time for. If somebody else would like to take on the responsibility for recording, editing, getting permissions, adding titles so that there is context to the content, and uploading it to YouTube, I would fully support them.

With encouragement from the worship committee, I'm planning a sunset Tenebrae service on Good Friday, a reflective and somber service in which we'll share a dozen readings, half about the suffering of Jesus and half about stories of suffering in our world today.

I also want to say that it has been energizing and pleasurable to work with Lee to produce intergenerational services and a good number of "Times for All Ages" in the in-person services. Those few minutes early in the service when we are engaged in an activity don't always translate to the Zoom service. We tried retelling stories that were acted out in the sanctuary which was good, but different. We tried recording building a bridge on the chancel and replaying it on Zoom, but for a variety of reasons that didn't work out. We're doing our best to figure it out, so that everyone experiences similar, if not identical, content.

Meetings and events within UUCSC since our last meeting

- Weekly supervision with Lee and Sara
- Monthly meeting with board chair Elizabeth Donovan
- Monthly Board meeting, plus a special 4-hour "retreat" in which we reflected on multicultural leadership
- Worship committee meeting, plus planning meetings with my partners in leading services

