

UUCSC Board of Directors Meeting  
June 15, 2022 via Zoom

**Present:** President Elizabeth Donovan, VP Trish Hindley, Treasurer Mary Alice Kimball, Clerk Mary Fulton, Directors Charlie Donnelly, Elaine Stannard and Russell Stokes, Rev. Denis Paul

**Guest:** Nick Smith

**Call to Order:** 4:15 PM by Elizabeth Donovan

**Reading of Covenant and chalice lighting:** by Elizabeth Donovan (super heroes)

**Invocation:** by Rev. Denis Paul (words of Rev. Joe Cherry)

**Check in**

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

**Staff reports are appended.**

**Treasurer's report: Printed copy on file with the clerk.**

Cash flow is healthy due to responsible pledgers. The Finance committee is reaching out to those who have pledge balances for Our Living Legacy. Collection of approximately \$20,000 is still possible. This amount would further reduce the mortgage, although not quite retire it. Finance has undertaken a summer project that will result in recommendations being made to the board in the fall. They are working on:

Developing a Comprehensive and Strategic Financial Plan

Noting all funding streams and sources and all expense categories

Working toward a balanced annual operating budget over 3-5 years

Establishing reserve funds - to support annual operating budgets

Establishing a Sustainability Fund - a new type of fund that helps fill unanticipated gaps as occurred during the pandemic

Establishing an Endowment Fund

Establishing appropriate investment oversight and strategic review

Putting parameters on gifts that come with restrictions

Developing diverse revenue streams

Actively marketing and supporting a Legacy Society

Establishing easily accessible E-Giving methods

Planning for a Capital or Special campaign every 5-10 years

Planning for minimal or retired debt

Supporting a strong membership cultivation, engagement and retention program

**MOTION: Elizabeth moves to approve the purchase of a portable BOSE L1Pro16 public address system. PASSED unanimously.**

Nick Smith presented information he gathered about portable PA systems with the intention of making outdoor services easier to manage. The BOSE system is affordable, light, simple and effective. Nick and Mary Alice will work with the Finance committee to provide funding and the appropriate paper work.

**OLD Business:**

The Policy Handbook task force has not yet met. No progress has been made about community signage. GA delegates can still serve this month but no one has expressed an interest in serving as a delegate.

**NEW Business:**

Dining for \$ Auction - Trish Hindley - The auction raised \$9040 and may raise more as people wanted more time to participate. Individuals offering events are being encouraged to advertise openings and to reach out to their personal networks. Funds collected at each event that are raised in this manner can be donated after the event.

Riverfire/Pridefest - On June 23rd UUCSC will sponsor a table at this event in Wakefield. T-shirts are being made to be worn that evening so our congregation's involvement will be evident to the community.

Kayak meet ups - Elizabeth has one planned and others will follow for interested kayakers.

Facilities: The black railing on the front steps will be removed and replaced with one that is ADA compliant. Facilities has made improvements in the kitchen and back stairs but they are in need of a new chairperson.

Summer services schedule: Elizabeth showed the Board that there are still gaps in the planning that need to be addressed.

Rhode Island Foundation: Elizabeth and Mary Alice have attended workshops that offer good advice. Perhaps one of the presenters will do a workshop specifically for religious nonprofits at UUCSC.

Adjourned 6:00PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Fulton, Clerk

Next Board Meeting: July 20, 4-6 via Zoom (plan to Zoom in August as well due to traffic congestion)

Coordinating Council: Wednesday September 14, 4-6

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

June 15 , 2022

Dear Members of the Board of Trustees,

Having had both a furlough week and a concurrent study week since our last meeting, my activities are fewer than normal, but still impactful. Here are some of the things I've been working on since my last report:

### Worship

6/5 "Affirmation," with Lee Cowan, a service with 9-year olds that included a flower communion and Bridging Ritual

6/19 "The Challenge of our Forefathers"

After this Sunday, 6/19, I have only one service left to the church year, on July 10. I've planned worship services into October.

The worship committee is experiencing some changes. Johnnie Rodriguez announced she will be leaving the committee after the summer, but will be available if needed. Two others have joined: Nancy Richman, a long time UU new to our congregation; and Ann Seemann returns to the committee, from her home in Simsbury CT. A couple other people have expressed interest, and I am in conversation with them. Ann's rejoining raises three important questions:

1. What is our commitment as a congregation to continuing in-person services online?
2. How do we create a cadre of volunteers to act as "Zoom Techs" for what could potentially be sparsely attended (but nonetheless significant) worship services? For example, do we train the people who are already attending regularly?
3. Should make a financial investment into equipment that would make Zoom services better?

### Congregational Life

Rather than continuing to report on meetings and other events that occur regularly (as if this were a time sheet) from now on, I'll be sharing challenges and questions.

There's been an expression from a number of people about the need for a venue for expressing grief together, related to the world (terrorism, war, shootings), our congregation collectively and of each of us separately. I've had conversation with Lee and a couple members of the pastoral care committee, and plan to introduce a new monthly gathering I will call "From Light to Shadow." My hope is to get that up and running by the end of August.

Lee and I met with the aesthetics committee, and with their enthusiastic support have begun thinking about ways to use the front wall of the sanctuary and the niches to visually link the space to our monthly worship and RE themes. We're hoping to put out a call for proposals to artists (and others) in the congregation.

I've also been hearing from elders in the congregation that they'd like more opportunities for engagement. The "From Light to Shadow" monthly gathering might address some of that need, but I'm also considering a monthly daytime social gathering (perhaps over lunch) in which we could discuss movies and/or books.

In the last month I've officiated the memorials of two members: Nina Collier and Dorothy Devine. Dave Hurdis's memorial is planned for June 30 at 10:30 AM. In response to the circumstances of his death — alone in his home and found two days later — some have suggested that we create a system for older folks who live alone to check in on each other daily by phone.

### Community Life

I've been invited by Rabbi Ethan Adler to consider involving UUCSC with his synagogue and a local Episcopal Church in a loose affiliation together in which they share meals, social events, justice projects and occasional interfaith worship. I'll be having more conversation with him and keeping you posted.

A few of us (with no leader per se) have been organizing a casual presence at PrideFest at RiverFire next week. Plans including custom t-shirts, handouts, and re-using the "Fool in a Box" (from the April Fools' service) for a little drama.

One-to-One conversations: 61 as of 6/15/22

Next Furlough Week: June 20-27

Vacation: July 11-31

In Peace,  
Rev. Denis Letourneau Paul

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Rev. Denis Paul  
Unitarian Universalist Minister

June 2022  
DRE Board Report

Dear Board,

It feels like more than a month since my last report. So much is happening!

We had two Time for All Ages and two multi-gen services this month. The balloon bop with Rev. Joe was so joyful. And I got a lot of positive feedback that the conversation with Jeffrey the Cow puppet during the Social Justice service was very powerful. Our Affirmations service for the 9 yr olds and our bridging senior was so beautiful. I plan to continue cultivating the connection between those 9 yr olds by checking in with them about their questions and their journals. I think that age group could really form a strong bond.

I had a meeting with the two DREs at Westminster UU about coordinating an OWL training there. They've been running into some road blocks, mostly financial and are not sure they will be able to find facilitators for the training. We're working on it! We really hope to get a group of volunteers trained so that we can offer OWL in the fall.

Planning is underway for our UUCSC Family Cookout and Celebration on June 25th. The RE Committee is excited to host this and maybe it will become an end of year tradition!

For the summer, we brainstormed ideas for informal get-togethers for all ages, based on our all ages hikes in the spring. We have one family who has offered to be the "host" for a monthly hike. And Bethany offered to host a monthly swim meet-up. Pam offered to host people at her Gentle Farm. So I will be coordinating this and getting the info to Sara and Etta so they can help send reminders during the summer.

Rev. Denis and I started talking about services that I'd like to lead next year. I'd love to lead another Autumn celebration around the equinox. Rev Denis asked if I would lead a "bread communion" the Sunday before Thanksgiving. And I'd love to help celebrate the winter solstice, as well as coordinate a spring festival of some kind.

Thanks all,

Lee

## **Office Administrator Board Report, June, 2022**

**Annual Meeting** The biggest projects this month were related to preparation for the Annual Meeting. The first task was collecting all the reports and other materials for the Annual Report Packet and uploading all those materials to the website. Sincere thanks to Etta Zasloff and Elizabeth Donovan for their guidance and patience. There was also preparation of materials for the meeting itself including printed copies of the packet and agenda.

**Education** On May 19<sup>th</sup> I participated in an online meeting of UU Congregational Administrators hosted by New England Region of the UUA. It was enlightening and informative, and good to connect with administrators at other congregations.

**Social Justice** I brought the possibility of UUCSC sponsoring a table at the upcoming RiverFire Pride to Rev. Denis, Elizabeth Donovan and the Social Justice Committee. It is my understanding that plans are in motion to participate in this local event supporting our LGBT+ community.

**Technology** David Fulton took the laptop to The Lock Shop and had the software reinstalled. I will work on uploading an updated list so we can start assigning new pin codes in the coming weeks.

**Directory** Linda Dupuis and I expect that the online directory will be in good enough shape to provide reasonably accurate printed copies next week.

**Ongoing** I continue to work with Etta on the newsletter and website, and to take care of the mail, email and phone messages and getting the bills to Sue Rogala.

Best,  
Sara Kaplow  
Office Administrator

## **June 2022 FA Report to the Board**

Dear Board members,

In June I continue to maintain the financial records and pay vendors in a timely manner. Mary Alice will be instructing me soon on how to upload and organize files in google documents. I realize I still have some procedures to document and/or update before they are added. With year-end on June 30<sup>th</sup> there will also be much additional work to be done and I am sure everyone is grateful that the budget is done for the new year.

Regards,  
Sue