

UUCSC Board of Directors Meeting
August 17, 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: Jill Pfitzenmayer (RI Foundation) and Lee Cowan

Call to Order: 4:00 PM by Elizabeth Donovan

Reading of Covenant and chalice lighting: by Elizabeth Donovan (touch lives, change the world))

Invocation: by Rev. Denis Paul

Check in

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

Minister's report is appended.

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

Income is as expected. A deficit for the 2021/22 is probable but the exact figure will not be available until September.

Carolyn Hurdis Bequest: The task force has decided to fund Our Whole Lives (OWL).

OLD Business:

Policy Handbook: The first meeting of the task force for revisions will be 8/18.

Dining 4\$\$\$: Only a few collections are outstanding.

Kayak meet-ups: There have been 5. Though participating numbers may be small the conversations and connections are big.

Bring Your Own Everything picnics: Rain has affected the turn out, but those who attended the past 2 had a good social time.

Facilities: Railing has not changed. A new chairperson is needed. Plans are underway with Lee Cowan for improving the back yard.

Service schedule: Services on 8/21 and 8/28 will be both in person and on Zoom. Services on 9/4 and 9/11 will be in person only as the ceremonial aspects will not translate well on Zoom. 9/18 may be the first hybrid service where the in person service and a digital version will be available simultaneously.

Unfilled committee chairperson positions: Facilities, membership and tech.

NEW Business:

The congregational meeting on September 17 will be held from 10:00 till noon with a lunch provided at the end of the meeting. Much discussion took place about how to organize the meeting and what questions to ask the congregation to solicit good feedback. Rev. Denis, Lee and Elizabeth will do the detailed planning based on the Board's input today and via email.

Adjourned 6:00PM

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Fulton, Clerk

Next Board Meeting: September 21, 6-8 via Zoom
Coordinating Council: Wednesday September 14, 4-6

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

August 12, 2022

Dear Members of the Board of Trustees,

I was away for our last meeting for two weeks of vacation and a study week planning fall worship and catching up on reading.

Worship

7/6 Wednesday Evening Sharing Circle, focused on grief over personal and global events
7/10 "What's in an I?" With music by Nick Smith and Cathy Solomon

In order to provide a bit of respite to the usual Zoom techs for our services, I'm providing that service for the first two Sundays of August. As I've spent hours working out bugs that are preventing me from sharing my screen (a critical task of a tech) I've developed an even stronger appreciation for the work of this critical role.

I've also been working on a Worship Manual, a tool for current and future Worship Committee members to help plan effective, reflective, and worshipful Sunday services. My hope is to work with the more long-term members of the committee to train new folks and hopefully begin a series of workshops to deep skills and our shared understanding of how and why we do what we do on Sundays and other special events. If all goes well, we should be able to recruit more

folks to regularly take part in services, even if they aren't part of booking guest speakers and doing the behind-the-scenes work that the committee has been doing so competently.

Congregational Life

The Wednesday Evening Sharing Circle in July was a kind of trial run for "From Shadow to Light" gatherings I'd like to begin soon. It went well, was surprisingly well-attended, and gave me some insights into how to move forward. On July 21, Aline will join me in leading a service of the same name, introducing the idea and inviting people to participate.

The Hurdis Fund committee had a great meeting, with all in attendance, and determined how to move forward disbursing the \$5,000 allocated for this year. I'm happy to say that our RE program's OWL training for teachers will be the first priority, with unused funds going toward other proposals. Committee members will be meeting with Lee soon to begin determining exactly how much RE will need. The committee is very conscientious about the wishes of the Hurdis family.

Since the beginning of the summer slow-down, I've mostly been focused on catching up with folks through pastoral care, social events like picnics Beverages and Banter and kayaking. I get a strong sense that everyone is looking forward to the September 17 congregational meeting, as they express hope for big and small changes, renewed energy, and an exchange of creative ideas for the future. Though everyone expresses different needs and expectations, there seems to be a universal feeling that we can live in the dynamic tension of a post-covid world and be adaptable.

Community Life

On the evening of the Supreme Court's decision on the Dobbs case, effectively overturning Roe v. Wade, I was invited to speak at the RI State House, which turned out to be larger and more violent than expected. Right after I finished speaking (about Christian nationalism, as requested) a fight broke out between an organizer and an off-duty police officer, both of whom are running as opponents for the RI legislature. It was scary to have all that unfold moments after I finished, but I'm glad I could be part of the event. Shortly afterward, I met with Jocelyn Foy from the Womxn Project and her associate Tammy Brown, who preached at UUSoCo a couple weeks later.

Since my arrival, I've been hearing about the group gathering every Sunday on the steps of the post office in Westerly to protest racial injustice. I was invited to give a reprise of the "17 Generations" reading we did in the Juneteenth service at UUSoCo. More than a dozen congregants were there, and we made new connections with potential guest preachers, and I even connected with a member who hasn't been in a while. You never know what will come up.

I'm glad to report that Rev. Bill Zelazny of the Channing Congregation in Newport is making an effort to regroup the RI Cluster of UU ministers, which has not been gathering since the beginning of the pandemic. I've offered my help to make this important regular act of collegiality happen again.

One-to-One conversations: 68 as of 8/12/22 Next Furlough Week: August 22 - 29

In Peace, Rev. Denis Letourneau Paul, Unitarian Universalist minister