

UUCSC Board of Directors Meeting  
October 19, 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

**Call to Order:** 6:02 PM by Elizabeth Donovan

**Reading of Covenant and chalice lighting:** by Elizabeth Donovan

**Check in**

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

**Staff reports: Appended.** A question arose regarding an outside group that asked if they could apply for funding from the Carolyn Hurdis bequest fund. The task force that is distributing these funds will be asked to clarify their policies and to appoint a contact person.

**Treasurer's report: A print copy is on file with the clerk.** There is no big change since last month.

**Future planning by the Finance Committee:** The Board will receive minutes from the recent committee meeting. Google drive now houses the committee's documents. Pat Gilligan will review all of the documents before submitting them to a procedural audit to be done by someone not on the Finance committee. Pledges are down about \$6000 due to moves, deaths, etc. Membership needs to expand to counterbalance this decrease. A sexton is not affordable at this time. Plans are being made to build reserve funds for a sabbatical, search expenses and replacement of aging equipment. Some OLL pledges are still outstanding. Outreach will be done to solicit completion of these pledges. Bank Newport does not recommend paying off the remainder of the mortgage because interest rates are low right now. More discussion is required regarding the mortgage. Would pledge statements sent out in October and May be helpful? New membership software could help track pledges. Should legacy giving be included on the pledge card? Communications regarding finances has improved and would like to continue this trend. A gift policy that outlines how to deal with restricted gifts is needed. Our tax designation as a 501.3C entity is held by the UUA. Finance is in the process of getting our own as some businesses will not accept the UUA tax number. Inquiries are being made regarding solar energy.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Rev. Denis is opening and closing the building on the Sundays that he preaches. Membership will assume those responsibilities on lay Sundays.
2. Rev. Denis intends to extend his contract for another year.
3. A ministerial review will be done in the spring.

4. The OWL training that took place at UUCSC was discussed. Participants from other congregations took part.
5. Trish's plans for the Holiday Fair on 12/3 are going well. 7 of the slots for 15 vendors are taken. Amber Collins will supervise the lunch concession. Harry Buffum and friends will provide live music. Mary Finnegan will organize wreath making and sales. Jean Bowen will sell jewelry. Mary Alice Kimball will auction a quilt donated by Dave Ruede and Carol Layne. Membership will coordinate a bake sale. Helene Gersuny will sell plants. Dave Fulton will sell books. Masks will be recommended and provided but not required since the Holiday Fair will be inviting the public to attend. Advertising is needed.
6. Membership was told to proceed with designing T-shirts to buy and sell.
7. The Tree of Life policy needs to be clarified in writing. Elizabeth will write a proposal for the policy and a form letter to submit for Board approval.

Adjourned 7:55.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Fulton, Clerk

**Minister's Report to the Board of Trustees**  
**UU Congregation of South County**  
**Rev. Denis Letourneau Paul**  
October 13, 2022

Dear Members of the Board of Directors,

Following are my thoughts on the three areas of ministry:

Worship

10/2/22 "Ordinary Tenacity," with Linda Whyte Burrell

10/9/22 "Forced Wandering," with Gail Burchard

10/16/22 "Things You Just Know," with Nick Smith

Monthly "Shadow to Light" services have been scheduled through the year for (generally) the last Wednesday evening of each month at 7PM.

The first Worship Associate training will be on Saturdays November 5 at 10AM, with at least two more to be scheduled for later in the year.

The front wall of the sanctuary has been consistently decorated, with monthly theme-related plans through January. A regular pool of art enthusiasts are involved.

After much training, planning and fine-tuning of the tool, the entire worship committee and staff are now using the Google Drive worship spreadsheet to share information

about upcoming services. Our hope is that timely entry of information will help everyone do their jobs more efficiently.

Simulcasting on Zoom is going beautifully. The only remaining challenge is to find a pool of people to act as “virtual ushers,” whose sole job is to let people into the zoom room and hit the record button at the beginning of the sermon. We hope that nine regular attendees on Zoom will be willing to take responsibility for one Sunday every two months.

### Congregational Life

The energy around the congregation is infectious. After the September all-church meeting, Elizabeth Donovan and I are talking about how to have committees and the Coordinating Council move forward with next steps.

The Membership Committee has re-formed, again with Val Follett as chair, with a new group of people. They are working as greeters and ushers and taking on the responsibilities of opening and closing the building on Sundays when I am not present.

Dining for Dollars (D4\$+) events continue, all well and joyfully attended. I was honored to host 10 folks at my home and look forward to being hosted by Nancy and Ellen at the end of the month.

I now have a covenant with minister emerita Betty Kornitzer, and she’s already taken part in services. It’s wonderful to have so much positive, inclusive and creative energy in every corner of our community.

### Community Life

Surely everyone in the congregation is benefitting from the new focus of the social justice committee. Their occasional but timely emails regarding upcoming opportunities for engagement have allowed me to be present for the Womxn Project’s birthday party and a pre-election demonstration at Narragansett Pier.

I have also attended my first meeting of the UU Ministers Association’s Ballou Channing District, as I continue to develop relationships with other ministers in our statewide cluster.

Next Furlough Week: October 17-24

In Peace,  
Rev. Denis Letourneau Paul  
October 2022DRE Board Report

Dear Board,

We successfully completed the Our Whole Lives training, thanks to the work of many hands and hearts. Thank you to everyone who brought delicious homemade food, picked up food from restaurants and set out coffee and breakfast buffets over the weekend. We had 11 people participate in the training from four different UU congregations (UUCSC, Westminster, Providence and East Falmouth, MA). Our trainers came from NH and MA and were incredibly talented, compassionate and skilled. We will now be partnering with Westminster UU to run the 8th-9th grade class, beginning on Oct. 30th. That class will run on Sundays for most of the rest of the congregational year. We still plan to run the 10th-12th grade class starting at the end of Jan/beginning of Feb, in partnership again with Westminster. This is the beginning of a very important connection for our RI UU congregations and for our youth. I can't tell you how inspired I am by this curriculum and how grateful I am that we can offer it to these youth.

Thank you to Mary Fulton and her granddaughter, Alanna who cleaned the entire RE space before the OWL training, while I organized. It looks great!

Rev. Denis and I have been planning for upcoming TFAAs and multi-gen services: Halloween, Bread Communion, Chalica, and a Solstice pageant.

The RE Committee met and agreed on our goals for the year. We came up with ideas and details for each category and are starting to implement them. Here are the main points:

1. Build community: within RE, with the congregation and with the wider community
2. Start an OWL program
3. Start a junior youth group for 5th-8th graders
4. Include UU Principles during our time together

I spend time every month reading over the Soul Matters resources and pulling out parts to include in the newsletter for all ages. I've also been helping with the art on the back wall of the sanctuary, and I love that the installations have been collaborative pieces that all ages can contribute to.

Thanks all,  
Lee

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

**Committees** The newly re-formed Membership Committee is approaching the task with energy, and I have been asked to do various things to support their work, such as creating a template for new name tags and finding old policy documents for review and updating. There is also a policy review going on and I have been able to supply members of the Policy Committee with hard copies and some electronic copies of documents they need to review. I have fielded a few inquiries about the Carolyn Hurdis Fund and am waiting for guidance from the committee.

**OWL training and RE** Lee took care of most of the arrangements for the OWL training which took place Oct. 7-9. I was able to supply some assistance and support in preparation of documents, processing payment checks and registrations. I was able to assist Nick Smith in pursuing a background check so he can continue to work with Lee in RE.

**Streamlining processes** Rev. Denis gave me access to the worship spreadsheet on Google Drive, which will make it easier to get information to the newspapers for listings in a timely fashion. It has come to our attention that the Narragansett Times no longer has a section for church listings.

**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

## **October 2022**

### **FA Report to the Board**

Dear Board members,

In October I continued to maintain the financial records and pay vendors in a timely manner. Financials have been completed for September. There has been more work completed on the year-end financials and hopefully they will be finalized soon. Just to remind you, when I pick up my mail, I also swap out the backup drives and start a backup on Sara's computer to make sure it is working correctly. One back up drive is always at my house and one is at the Church.

Regards,

Sue