

UUCSC Board of Directors Meeting
January 18, 2023 via Zoom

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

Absent: Elaine Stannard

Guest: Nancy Richman

Call to Order: 6:00 PM by Elizabeth Donovan

Reading of Covenant and chalice lighting: by Elizabeth Donovan

Invocation by Rev. Denis Letourneau Paul

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

Staff reports: Appended. Mary Alice Kimball commented on how valuable Sue Rogala's review of the treasurer's work is.

Treasurer's report: A print copy is on file with the clerk.

A comparison of financials from June to December was presented. The cash situation looks very healthy. About \$5000 in pledges for the Our Living Legacy (OLL) has recently been received bringing the mortgage repayment funds on hand to \$21,000. Our current monthly mortgage payment is now only \$381 thanks to the generosity of congregants during OLL. \$195 will be sent to the UUA as a donation from the profits of the Holiday Fair.

Old Business:

Railing: Russell Stokes has made arrangements with Susan Mondelo regarding the replacement of the railing on the front steps. The new railing will be ADA approved.

Mask Policy: Elizabeth Donovan will contact Dr. Louis Rubenstein to determine how to move forward during this winter season of covid, RSV and flu.

Kitchen use: The coffee and teapots as well as the microwave may be used.

Stewardship campaign: The Bee-loved Community campaign will begin Sunday February 12th. Much has been accomplished this past year so there are great aspirations regarding the funding of exciting prospects for next year.

New Business:

UUA certification: Mary Fulton will arrange a conference phone call with Elizabeth Donovan, Charlie Donnelly and Mary Alice Kimball to complete the questionnaire section of the UUA data.

Board Policy Manual Review: About half of the manual was reviewed and suggestions made. A longer meeting will be scheduled to do further work on the revisions.

Adjourned 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Fulton, Clerk

Next Board Meeting: February 15, 6-8pm, Zoom

Next Coordination Council Meeting: March 8, 4-6, Zoom

Staff reports:

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

January 13, 2023

Dear Members of the Board of Directors,

Following are my thoughts on the three areas of ministry:

Worship Life

Since my last report, I've been involved in the following services:

12/18 Solstice Tableau, assisting worship leader Lee Cowen

12/21 Shadow to Light evening service

12/23 Christmas Eve Eve

1/8 "Sunshine in a Bite," with Barbara Nowicki

First, I have to say how much I enjoy that Lee finds every opportunity to write a service script in which I am rolling around on the floor with children. Though on December 21 I had a revelation: I am no longer the "fun uncle." I am now the "fun grandpa." I saw the video. I have proof.

It was, despite the shocking revelation, a joy to celebrate the solstice so deeply with the congregation, in the spiral walk, the Sunday service, and the Shadow to Light service. This really is a congregation rooted in the cycles of the earth and pagan ritual. Lee and I are exploring ideas for a summer solstice celebration. (Hint: I like the idea of getting people up at 4:30AM)

Congregational Life

There were two big surprises to come out of celebrating Chalica as a congregation last month. Older adults showed a generosity of spirit in helping to create a robust, engaged, joy-filled celebration of our faith for families with children. You all heard the message that if we want the children of our present to be the adults of our future, we have to give them traditions they can participate in and hold onto. AND many of those adults (of all ages) expressed an interest in wanting to learn more about the principles in the context of worship. So I will be focusing a lot of my upcoming services on the principles, individually and as an interconnected system.

Now that the dust has settled from the holidays and the list of people with whom I've not had a one-to-one meeting with is dwindling, I'm realizing how much time has *not* been spent on visiting with folks pastorally. Recognizing that there are only so many hours in my three-out-of-four weeks, I'll be getting to as many folks as I can.

Meanwhile, I'll continue to work on stewardship with that able committee and on leadership development with the good folks in the Coordinating Council. At our last meeting this week, we had a great conversation about the personal characteristics of effective leaders.

Community Life

At the beginning of the new legislative session, I got to visit the State House with UUCSC members and others supporting Reproductive Freedom. I'm not sure our presence had any effect on actual legislators, but I know that just being together and networking makes us stronger and more motivated. One thing I know: we all need more cisgender men to show up!

Next Furlough Week: January 23-30

In Peace,
Rev. Denis Letourneau Paul
Unitarian Universalist Minister

Office Administrator Board Report, January, 2023

Membership Welcome cards have been updated and printed.

Stewardship Work has begun to update the membership list with correct contact information and to produce the pledge card for the 2023 campaign.

Background Checks Background checks are completed or in process for staff and volunteers who work with children in the RE program.

Ongoing I continue to perform various tasks in support of the work of many of the committees. I continue to maintain the online calendar, to produce the order of service weekly, 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

January 2023
FA Report to the Board

Dear Board members,

This month the priorities are to work on monthly financial activities and calendar year tasks. I will be reviewing QuickBooks in the next week to see if any 1099's need to be issued. In the next month I will also be completing training in new processes related to the transition of the UUA Retirement Plan from TIAA to Empower. During the month I also spent time responding to emails and researching any issues if needed.

Regards,
Sue

January 2023
DRE Lee Cowan Board Report

Dear Board,

I loved our holiday time this year. It really came alive with Chalica and then deepened with the Solstice. It's always such an honor to get to lead services, and I'm grateful for Rev Denis' support and flexibility, as well as his unflagging willingness to roll around on the floor with the children. Yes! The Solstice spiral was deep and gorgeous. I'm so grateful to have a community to honor the seasonal shifts together. I opted out of the Christmas Eve service this year, in favor of much needed family time. Thank you again to Rev Denis and to Michael for being so flexible.

We've been enjoying our time downstairs in January. We made a poster of our "ideal UU community" complete with a water park and trampolines, but also with five key words that came from our discussion: Listening, Welcoming, Sharing, Loving, Community. It's hanging in the RE hallway on the bulletin board. Come check it out!

Last Sunday we played a bunch of circle games and had a blast. We learned more about each other playing a game we re-named "the chalice lights for people who...." and then shared something about ourselves. Everyone for whom that was also true ran into the circle and high fived or did a little dance. We also had a grand ol' time playing a shoe swap game. And Nick Smith came down to teach us a new song and join in the fun.

Speaking of songs, I'm going to talk to Michael about the kids joining the choir for one or two songs sometime.

I've been preparing to lead a parent orientation for the 10th-12th grade OWL class on Jan. 22nd and working with the facilitators to get ready for the program which begins Jan. 28th. We will be bringing life back to the youth room, finally! And I'd like to get rid of the less than comfortable white armchair that's there. I'll check with Jean Burke about that.

Also, I'm putting together a panel for the OWL class on Feb. 19th. I'm looking for people of all ages who identify as LGBTQ+ to volunteer to come be on the panel and talk about their experience. Let me know if you know anyone who would be great for this!

The RE Committee missed our Dec. meeting, but otherwise we've been meeting every month. The committee consists of Barbara Pagh, Bethany Sorrentino, Jenny Rebecca, Amber Collins and Pam Santos. We do not have a chair, so I have been attending Coordinating Council, which is a great way to hear an overview of the workings of the congregation. I also attend worship committee meetings.

Thanks all!

Lee