

UUCSC Board of Directors Meeting
February 15, 2023 via Zoom

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

Absent: Mary Alice Kimball

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 January Board minutes that were approved via email. PASSED unanimously.

Staff reports: Appended.

Old Business:

Mask Policy: Elizabeth has consulted with several sources, including 2 physicians in the congregation, regarding the mask policy. Each Board member offered their opinion and a motion was made to revise the current policy.

MOTION: Elizabeth Donovan moves that masks will be required on Sunday mornings through the end of March, when masks would become optional, unless the CDC indicates a high level for Washington County. A "mask only" area will be established in the sanctuary for those who would be more comfortable sitting together with other masked people.

PASSED Unanimously.

Nominating: Elected members of the nominating committee will fill terms ending in these years: Gail Burchard in 2023, Linda Whyte Burrell in 2024 and Val Follett in 2025.

New Business:

Simulcasting: Because Zoom is filtering out music in order to make voices heard better, parts of the Sunday services cannot be heard. Nancy Richman and others will investigate alternatives to Zoom that will allow easy use for a reasonable price and cover copyright issues as well as provide good quality sound for both voice and music.

Retreat: The Board will meet on Wednesday March 1st at 1:00 in Trish Hindley's home at 173 lacuele Drive, Wakefield. Board members are invited to bring their own lunch at noon. Beverages will be provided.

Facilities: Russell Stokes reported that the committee is investigating how to correct the bubbling on the walls of the sanctuary and how to prevent, or slow, its reoccurrence. They are also soliciting advice on how to reduce heating costs.

Membership lists: The database of members and friends was reviewed before the UUA certification and Stewardship mailing. 27 letters were sent to folks who have not been seen in the past 2 years asking how they want to be listed for future communication. 4 replied. Those who did not reply will be maintained in the Constant Contact list for the e-news until they elect to unsubscribe. The lists of members and friends will be updated annually in November. The directory should also be updated once it is determined which committee will be responsible for the task.

Fundraising: There will be another Dining for Dollars event organized by Trish Hindley and Betsy Dalton.

General Assembly (GA) delegates: UUCSC can designate 3. Two people have expressed an interest in serving as delegates.

Adjourned 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Fulton, Clerk

Next Board Meeting: March 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

February 12, 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:

1/15 "Grace as a Grounding Practice," with Nancy Rose

2/5 "Where is the Love"

2/12 "Journeys toward Something," with Adria Evans

I'm in the midst of a series of services focused on the Principles, dedicating a service to each of the Eight Principles, with an additional two looking at the whole system and the Article II process the UUA is currently involved in and voting on at General Assembly this June. Feedback has been universally positive, from what I've heard. It seems people are grateful for the chance (as always) to go deeper and learn more. Plus, it seems to be alleviating some of the anxiety going on in some congregations regarding the 8th, 5th and 2nd Principles

as well as the Article II proposal. It's all a process in a living tradition like ours, and I think folks are finding comfort in that.

Meanwhile, Zoom has made "improvements" to its app which are actually problems for us as a congregation. they've improved voice sound by drawing out background noise...including music. The worship committee is in the process of looking at other options, with the goal of making music audible while also maintaining the interactivity that Zoom participants appreciate and expect.

Congregational Life

Folks on the coordinating council seem excited about having intentional conversations and plans around leadership development.

The membership committee is making lots of headway in making themselves more available to everyone, especially newcomers. We've planned a series of events, including a newcomers lunch on March 12, a "New to UU" class on April 2, and new member ceremony on May 7.

The Birthday Bash dinner was a huge success despite the deadly low temperatures that evening. At least 75 people attended, ranging in age from 3 to 90, all interacting. With a small suggested donation, we more than covered expenses. The general consensus seems to be that we should hold these events about four times per year. Lee and I are working on dates and a plan for sharing the cookin. By the way the volunteer force for that event was AMAZING!

The Stewardship campaign for the next fiscal year is underway. Mary Fulton and her team are doing a great job, and today (2/12) I had a little impromptu "chaliceside chat" to talk about what I find exciting about our future. I shared with everyone my understanding of where the opportunities lie for the future of the congregation: retirees. We may be losing families in South County, but every year more retirees come to the area, eager to connect and lend to the vibrancy of this community. Meanwhile, Lee and I encourage commitment to creating deeper relationship between generations, relationships that benefit everyone, including our congregation, our town, and our association.

There's so much energy and enthusiasm here. It's infectious.

Community Life

I'm so proud that UUCSC had such presence with the Rhode Island Black Storytellers and FundaFest through January. This is the kind of connection I'd love to see more of. Not just because it gets our name out there, but more importantly because it's the right thing to do. We should be doing everything we can to widen the audience for voices that have historically been silenced.

Next Furlough Week: February 14-21

In Peace,
Rev. Denis Letourneau Paul

Dear Board,

I'd say our Birthday Bash was a grand success. It was such a joy to see everyone celebrating together and enjoying each other's company. That's what this is all about. Rev. Denis and I are talking about quarterly dinners and coming up with an outline for what the dinner entails so that it's easy for volunteers to plug in. We had great help setting up and cleaning up this time around. It just gets better and better.

In RE we have been singing a lot with Nick Smith and got to explore many different rhythm instruments last Sunday. We're practicing call and response songs and several UU hymns. I'm excited to share one of our songs (with rhythm accompaniment) next Sunday at the multi-gen.

OWL is amazing.

The 10th-12th grade class is going really well with 9 students attending. They got to blow up condoms like balloons to see how big they can get, practice putting them on an anatomical model, plus practice their communication skills on paper while arguing two sides of whether to wear a condom or not. Where else do kids get to do this? Our third class coming up this Sunday will be a panel of LGBTQ+ folks from our congregation: more intergen connections! It's a lot of work to get ready for each class, but it is setting the groundwork for classes in the future, with materials, newsprint and handouts already ready to go.

I'm teaching my second 7th-9th grade class at the end of this month. Bethany and I are talking about hosting a training for elementary OWL facilitators next fall. We have a large group of that age and I'd love to offer it to them.

And adult OWL is in the works! I met with Rick Sanford last week and got to know him a little better. He's excited to take the OWL facilitator training along with Mary Fulton.

I've been thinking about how I'm supposed to take a Sunday off every month. I do have three people who can fill in for me, but sometimes it's hard to let go! So I'm working on that. I'd like to not burn out and to have built in weekends off.

I've loved helping install the art on the back wall of the sanctuary. Rev. Denis and I have started concocting an idea for March with the theme of "vulnerability."

Thanks all,

Lee

February 2023 FA Report to the Board

Dear Board members,

Financial activities this month included completing the Workers Compensation audit online after it was reviewed by Mary Alice. I did check the mail 2x this past week due to Sara's vacation and put any contributions received in the safe for Jeff. There were only 2 1099's mailed in January for 2022. The 1096 will be completed and sent to the IRS before the end of February deadline. UUA is transitioning to a new recordkeeper for the retirement plan. In anticipation of this Rev. Denis's contributions for February were sent early in order to arrive by the 2/9/23 deadline. There is online training available starting this week that I will be attending. This training will cover how to submit the pension contributions and also how to submit the data needed by the record keeper. In the past I was uploading a file with the data monthly. It seems like they will also accept a file formatted to their specifications or the information can be entered on their website. After the training I will discuss with Mary Alice what method is preferred for UUCSC.

I continue to respond to emails and answer any other requests as needed. The normal financial monthly activities continue to consume the majority of my time.

Regards,
Sue