

UUCSC Board of Directors Meeting
May 17, 2023 via Zoom

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

Absent: Treasurer Mary Alice Kimball

Guests: Betsy Dalton, Susan Pavlow and Nick Smith

Call to Order: 6:00 PM by Elizabeth Donovan

Reading of Covenant and chalice lighting: by Elizabeth Donovan

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

Staff reports: Appended.

Board members asked where to find the RE evaluation to which Lee referred. Charlie Donnelly is the appointed archivist so he will help Lee sort out things in her office, possibly with the assistance of Sally Barney.

Michael Galib asked that the Board discuss how AI might affect posting photos, names, etc. on the UUCSC website. This is a fast changing topic that the UUA is also addressing. Guidelines from the UUA are anticipated. Elizabeth will bring this discussion to the Communications committee as well.

Personnel Presentation: Last year the Personnel committee updated their policy manual. This year they focused on the handbooks that are intended to be concise and easy to follow "best practice" guidelines for the staff and the committee members who support the staff. All of these documents are posted on the UUCSC website under the DOCUMENTS tab. Personnel requested that the Board review their updated documents before posting them.

MOTION: Russell moves to approve both the updated RE and new Personnel handbooks as presented. PASSED unanimously.

Three other handbooks will be reviewed next. It was clarified that the Finance committee generates the figures that determine staff salaries. Personnel's role is to advocate for generous and fair compensation according to UUA guidelines. Except for the minister's, a template is now used to write staff contracts.

Dining for Dollars update: 30 events are planned from mid June through the end of December. Each host has been emailed and the website should be ready to be activated May 28 through June 4. Congregants will have an opportunity to review the offerings and consider their choices before being asked to bid. Using the website

software is free as long as less than \$10,000 is raised. Last year the auction generated \$9000.

Fire drill: Board members will assist with the drill on 5/21.

Treasurer's report: A possible deficit of \$21,000 is projected for the 2023/24 fiscal year. This may become larger if it becomes necessary to hire a treasurer. Mary Alice is stepping down after serving for 5 years. In spite of repeated asks, Nominating has found no candidate for the position of treasurer. Finance has a plan to share tasks previously done by Mary Alice, but if a treasurer has to be hired, the deficit for 2023/24 could increase by an additional \$10,000 to \$20,000.

**MOTION: Nancy moves to approve the budget as presented.
PASSED unanimously.**

Annual Meeting Planning: Elizabeth is working with the Office Administrator to prepare the information packet that will be emailed by May 26. She will meet with the clerk to make absentee ballots available like last year.

Google docs: Elizabeth reminded Board members that the Communication committee will provide personal instruction to make using Google docs for committee work easier.

Summer services: Worship has plans well in hand.

Policy Manual: Revisions are still in process but a vote is expected soon.

Tree of Life: Chalice side chat has been postponed

Adjourned 8:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Fulton, Clerk

Annual Meeting: June 11

Next Board meeting: June 21 (may be in person)

Next Coordinating Council meeting: September 12

Staff reports

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

May 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 lead the following services:

4/30 "Chant, Vibration, Love," with Lee Cowan, Adria Evans and musician Kelly Doyle

5/7 "Three Questions," with Bina Holtzman and Jeanne Arthur

5/14 "Being More Human," with Elizabeth Donovan

Sound seems to be working well on Zoom. It's complicated and sometimes it feels tenuous, but with Nancy Richman sharing technical responsibilities with me, it seems like we may be able to make this work long term. Consequently, the worship committee is considering making summer worship available in person and online for most of the summer.

Congregational Life

Nine new members were recognized in a ceremony during the service on May 7 and it looks like we have seven more new members ready to join at the next opportunity in the fall. There is a lot of energy and excitement as we welcome younger participants, many of whom are stepping up to leadership in all corners of our congregation.

Sadly, we lost our oldest member, Essjay Foulkrod, for whom a celebration of life is scheduled for June 10. I know she would love to see growth in these challenging times, even as we mourn her loss.

Community Life

Nearly two dozen members of UUCSC were present for the April 21 interfaith service at Congregation Beth David in Narragansett, and roughly the same number were present for a Peace Parade at Saugatucket Park on April 29. We are organizing a walking contingent for South Kingstown's 300th Birthday Celebration in June, and present at the Pride event later in the month. With our new t-shirts and graphically bold white signs, UUCSC is making an impact in the community, and making our presence known!

Meanwhile, for the first time in the congregation's memory, we'll have all three delegate slots filled at General Assembly in Pittsburgh during the last weekend in June. Professional staff of congregations are automatic delegates, so I will be attending in person, and Lee will be attending virtually.

And, as expected, I've been called into leadership of the Ballou Channing Chapter of the UU Ministers Association.

Furlough Week: I will be splitting the next couple of furlough weeks as I am required to make a visit to family in California from May 31 to June 5. I'll be working halftime during the week of May 15-22 and June 12-19 to make up the difference. General Assembly for ministers is nearly a full week, June 19-25.

In Peace,
Rev. Denis Letourneau Paul

Office Administrator Board Report, May, 2023

Membership Materials were prepared and printed for the New Members Ceremony on May 7.

Computer Upgrades I met with Etta Zasloff and Sky Kimball to discuss the purchase of a new computer for the office in preparation of the congregation's purchase and implementation of Breeze software. In addition, I spoke with Bart Martin of 5 Star Personal Computer Services. He will be happy to help us with the transfer of files and to be a resource as we research options to replace the printer when our contract is up in October.

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, help to maintain the directory, and to take care of the mail, email and phone messages and getting the bills to Sue Rogala.

Best,
Sara Kaplow
Office Administrator

May 2023

FA Report to the Board

Dear Board members,

Monthly and daily financial activities and email activity continue to take the majority of my time. This includes reviewing and making all payments in a timely manner, bank account reconciliations, updating QuickBooks, completing all General Ledger entries requested by Mary Alice and running all monthly financials for Mary Alice. This month some time was spent looking at the entries for the Hurdis Fund with Mary Alice. Hopefully I will be entering the budget for the upcoming year into QuickBooks soon.

Regards,
Sue

May 2023

DRE Lee Cowan Board Report

Hi all,

The RE Committee has been meeting monthly and is so full of knowledge and enthusiasm. I'm

so grateful! We submitted our RE Committee Evaluation last week, so you can read that to see

how we worked on our goals this year in RE. We discussed our annual report and that will be

coming soon. We are planning for our RE service on May 28th that will highlight the OWL

programs we've launched and have a special puppet show from our kids. We will also be

honoring our bridging senior, Asher Henry.

We are excited that our Sidekicks program that I mentioned last month is up and running! We

have 10 pairs that we matched up and they are starting to contact each other to meet up. This is

a small but exciting step towards helping foster more connections in our congregation.

We plan

to expand in the fall with a kick off celebration at our October quarterly community dinner.

Hopefully these sidekicks will share pictures and videos of their time together and I will be

posting those on the RE bulletin board in the Oneto room, as well as on social media.

#UbeU

I would like to start working on making the DRE office more functional and less cluttered. A lot of

what needs to be done is to go through the many shelves full of curriculum and decide if there is

anything we want to keep. I will ask the RE Committee to help with this part. There are also lots

of photos and paperwork from previous years. I will need the help of someone who is interested

in historical records from our congregation to help decide what to keep.

Our Sundays downstairs are lovely, and feel really nourishing with kids and parents really

bonding. Our planting experiment were a mixed success: the strawberries sprouted, but none of

the other fruit. We used more of our cracked pots to plant succulents for mother's day, using a

plant called “Mother of Thousands” that makes tiny babies right on the edge of her leaves!

The multi-gen chanting service was beautiful, and I know a little challenging with the noise from

the kids. We are working on helping them to honor our sacred space upstairs. And we will be

more mindful of sending the little ones downstairs earlier so they don't have to sit through whole

services.

And what a treat to have a fabulous coffee hour to honor our new members and then to get to

dance around the May Pole! I love celebrating new life and new commitments to each other.

Thanks for everything you do,

Lee