

UUCSC Board of Directors Meeting
August 16, 2023 via Zoom

Present: President Nancy Richman, VP Trish Hindley, Clerk Mary Fulton, Directors Bethany Sorrentino, Russell Stokes, Rev. Denis Letourneau Paul

Absent: Treasurer Mary Alice Kimball and Director Charlie Donnelly

Guest: Adria Evans

Call to Order: 6:03 PM by Nancy Richman

Reading of the Covenant: Nancy Richman

Invocation: Rev. Denis L. Paul

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

MOTION: Nancy moves to ratify the email vote appointing Mary Alice Kimball as treasurer until the end of 2023 when the role and responsibilities of treasurer will be reevaluated. **PASSED** unanimously.

Staff reports: The minister's report is appended. No other staff reports are requested in August.

Treasurer's report via email: The current cash position is fine. The deficit for 2022-2023 is \$15,000 before any end year end entries. The 2022-2023 pledges paid to date is 89% with additional monies expected to reach 91.7%.

Dining 4\$\$\$ report: Trish Hindley
\$10,965 has been collected with only \$650.00 yet to be collected from 6 people.

OLD BUSINESS

MOTION: Nancy moves to transfer money from the Senior Youth HS group to budget reserves. **PASSED** unanimously.

The Board will attend a UUA leadership retreat on September 16 in Lexington, MA. DRE Lee Cowan will be invited to participate.

NEW BUSINESS

The role of Board governance versus management: Nancy shared a diagram from the book *Governance and Ministry* by Dan Hotchkiss that indicated staff is primarily responsible for management while the Board's responsibility is largely oversight. There is some overlap in regard to discernment and strategy. Hotchkiss affirms that the

congregation's mission should be what drives all Board decisions. The UUCSC mission is: The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of South County (UUCSC) is a welcoming, loving spiritual community practicing Unitarian Universalist principles. We offer a safe, respectful environment for personal and spiritual growth for children and adults. The UUCSC serves as a resource for social and environmental action and peace. In the future the board agenda will focus in large part on high-level oversight issues with the intention of empowering committees to make operational decisions that do not need to come to the board.

The Board will set both short and long term goals on September 20 after discussing some key challenges at the UUA retreat. These challenges will likely include:

1. Financial sustainability - pledging and fundraising to erase deficit spending
2. Maintenance of an aging building
3. Supporting an aging congregation
4. More effective use of the building for outreach and fundraising
5. How to attract youth
6. Outreach to potential members
7. Supporting social justice in the wider community

Rhode Island Coalition for Separation of Church and State: Bethany shared information about this newly formed group whose purpose is to educate the community about social justice issues that arise locally. She asked how UUCSC might participate. It was advised that the Social Justice committee needed to investigate this request, therefore, Bethany will speak with the Social Justice Advisory committee encouraging them to attend monthly meetings via Zoom to determine how best to integrate our social justice activities with those of the Coalition.

Adjourned 7:54

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Fulton, Clerk

Next Board meeting: September 20 (may be in person)

Next Coordinating Council meeting: September 13 (via Zoom)

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

August 15, 2023

Dear Members of the Board of Directors,

August finds me back from a remarkable rejuvenating vacation during the month of July. Though I have not preached since my return, I've been planning upcoming services through December, engaging with committees and individuals and doing a lot of scheduling.

There isn't a lot to report right now, but in the coming weeks and months we'll be having Worship Assistant training, New to UU classes, another quarterly Friday Night Dinner, and continuing to encourage more informal social gatherings that give everyone opportunities for engagement in congregational life beyond worship and the important work of committees.

Your new board chair Nancy and I have spoken about the ways in which we will work together in the 2023/24 congregational year, and I look forward to helping her engage with you on the board to think expansively about our future and how we lead through inevitable changes.

As soon as Mike and Lee return from vacation and we celebrate the water communion, everything will be humming away.

In Peace,

Rev. Denis Letourneau Paul