

UUCSC Board of Directors Meeting

November 1, 2023 via Zoom

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

Absent: Director Charlie Donnelly

Call to Order: 6:00 PM by Nancy Richman

Reading of the Covenant: Nancy Richman

Invocation: Rev. Denis L. Paul

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

Staff reports: Appended

Question for Reflection: What values or qualities are most important to you for the Board to embody? Listening- Responding responsibly - Join with congregants - Inclusive - Connected - Covenantal - Rooted in relationships - Intentional and organic connections - Experimental - Innovative - Flexible - Intergenerational - Socialize

Brainstorming how to facilitate experiments: Offer hospitality - Show up at events - Share a book discussion - Ask questions from Soul Matters - Observe at least once a year in RE

OLD BUSINESS

Treasurer's report: Mary Alice emailed several year-end documents to the Board. A \$24,000 deficit did occur but because of prepaid pledges the money is available to meet current expenses. There is concern that using this money now could result in a future deficit problem. Depreciation of assets is supposed to result in a savings plan for replacing aging equipment, etc. but this has not occurred. As of 9/30/23 there is \$232,917.97 cash on hand.

MOTION: Nancy moves to approve the Policy Handbook. PASSED

End-of-Year Financial Appeal: It was suggested that the appeal should be in the form of donations to honor someone as a holiday gift rather than urging donors to make a donation in an attempt to garner a tax reduction.

Fire drill: The fire drill on 10/29 took only 1.5 minutes which was half of the time previous drill time. Taking the drills seriously is the most important aspect of preparing for an emergency.

New Board experiment: A Chalice side chat will be co-hosted by Rev. Denis and President Nancy Richman on November 12th after the Sunday service to discuss the new Board approach to governance and developing covenantal relationships within the congregation and the local community.

NEW BUSINESS

Congregational meeting: Planning for February 4.

Book Discussion: Rather than read the UUA Common Read selection the Board is considering Michelle Obama's book *The Light We Carry*. Congregants will be welcome to join the Board for discussion.

December 6 Board meeting: The meeting will be in person with Thai food provided and a festive swap done of items that require no expense to the giver.

Adjourned: 7:52 PM

Mary Fulton, Clerk

Next Board meeting: December 6 in person

Next Coordinating Council meeting: November 8 (via Zoom))

Minister's Report to the Board of Directors

UU Congregation of South County

Rev. Denis Paul

October 31, 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:

10/1/23 "Found Families," with Lee Cowan

10/8/23 "The Responsibilities"

10/15/23 "J'ai Faim," with Nancy Richman

10/29/23 "The Great Decluttering," with Lee Cowan

Elizabeth Donovan has been a great addition to the worship team. She's knowledgeable and has a great understanding of what worship is meant to

be, as well as the variety of needs and expectations in the congregation. Now we just need a few more worship assistants.

A few weeks ago, I realized I hadn't been doing in worship something I enjoy. Telling stories. I've started doing that more, not just in the time for all ages when children are present, and the response has been positive. Everyone can use more stories to bring sermons to life.

Lee and I have been taking care of art in the sanctuary, continuing to follow the liturgical theme of the month. We could use some assistance. It's great, creative work that we enjoy, but it's also a lot to do several months running for people who aren't really visual artists! Input is welcome!

Congregational Life

A couple months back I talked in a service about hoping to shift the congregational culture just a bit, so it's less of a Sisterhood of Getting it Done, and just a bit more of a Siblinghood of Just Being. People seem to get it, and I'm thrilled to be working with Nancy Richman on things like the upcoming Chaliceside Chat to talk about the shifting work of the board. You all are really demonstrating what it means to just be, to just listen. Thank you.

It's been a real pleasure in the last three weeks or so to see so many people sign up for the Sidekicks program, to be paired with an unexpected companion. We never expected so many to sign up, and we've been thrilled to already be getting positive feedback about pairings. The best part, I think, is that people are comfortable with taking a risk and seeing how things go. This is a people willing to take risks, and I can't think of anything better in these times, when adaptability is asked of us constantly.

It's also good to report that on Sunday, November 5, we have more new members joining, and a couple more re-upping! There is growth. And it's good.

Community Life

A couple weeks ago I had the pleasure of being the MC at the UU Legislative Forum at Westminster. It was well attended and productive. The best part is that the lay leadership is beginning to think about their mission, and what they can do for the congregations of RI. They're even asking me to lead in some way. My feeling is it's a bigger job than they think, but I can't wait to see where this goes.

I've been involved with the RI Cluster of ministers and in the leadership of our Ballou Channing chapter of the UU Ministers Association. Last month alone I attended three installations of settled ministers!

And finally, I am hoping that the Tuesday community sewing clinic begun by Nancy and Rosemary takes off! So far everyone involved has been a congregant, but they might just be on to something. And I'm not just saying that as a sewing! I'm genuinely looking forward to more engagement from folks looking to escape the world of throw away fast fashion.

Next Furlough Week: November 13-20

In Peace, Rev. Denis Paul

October 2023

DRE Board Report

Dear Board,

The RE Committee has decided to shift how our meetings are run. We plan to have short

business meetings once a month or as needed by zoom and longer visioning meetings 3-4

times a year that all congregants are invited to. This way we can include many voices to have

input on the long term vision of RE and can get through logistical things quickly, as needed. Our

first visioning meeting will be as a chalice side chat on Dec. 3rd and we will focus on the idea of

hosting a UU summer camp.

I hosted our first "Faith Building" conversation last week. The topic was "Bringing UU Faith into

the Home." It was a small group, but a great way to connect. I look forward to having more of

these. Our next is on November 9th at 10:30 with Elizabeth Quincy on the topic of

neurodiversity.

I tabled at the "Scarecrows in the Park" event on Oct. 22nd and it went very well. I talked to a lot

of families and handed out new flyers. I took the ones that Cathy

Solomon created and added a back to them with info about RE. For future tabling events, I would suggest that we do not commit to them unless we have two people who can be there. It's a lot to set up and take down.

The Sundays leading up to the scarecrow event were spent planning and creating our scarecrow with lots of talk about UU principles! And last Sunday I was grateful to be part of our Memory Tree ritual.

The Sidekicks program seems to be a big success. We had exactly 50 people sign up to participate this time around. We would like to continue to offer it on a rotating basis three times a year, mixing people up and inviting new people to participate. I can't wait to see pictures!

The Quarterly Community Dinner was delicious as always. I'm glad there's some interest from the congregation in helping with the different dishes and we will also make sure to have people signed up for clean-up duty next time! I'm excited for it to be fully put on by the congregation.

The OWL training for elementary grades is fast approaching: Nov. 17-19th. We have 14 participants from 9 different congregations! I will need some volunteers to help with food. We will need people to make food, pick up prepared food, and clean up after meals. I will create a sign-up for folks to volunteer for this.

Thanks for all you do, Lee

Office Administrator Board Report, November 2023 Breeze

We had some issues linking the Congregational and Breeze calendars, some of which are not yet resolved. For the time being, events need to be entered into both calendars. Please continue to let me know about meetings so I can make sure information is available to the congregation.

OWL Class

I provided logistical support to the Adult OWL training and have started sending out invoices and providing other logistical support for the upcoming Elementary OWL Training.

Holiday Fair

I met with Trish Hindley and Elizabeth Donovan and helped Trish post a call for vendors.

Hurdis Fund

At the request of Gail Burchard, I created a folder on Google Drive with all the applications so far and the accounting information, to which all members of the committee have access. We hope that this will make it easier for the committee to keep track of what has been done and to process requests going forward.

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 in addition to producing the weekly order of service.

Best,

Sara Kaplow

Office Administrator

October 2023

FA Report to the Board

Dear Board members,

In October I spent a lot of time completing the year end reports that include the Statement of Functional Expenses, K1 Property and Equipment, and various other P&L and Balance sheet reports. I continued to maintain the financial records and pay vendors in a timely manner. I updated Lee's salary for her LTD insurance. Also, I responded to emails and troubleshooted any issues that were encountered.

I just want to thank you for changing the due date for the current month board report to the end of the month. It makes it so much easier to report the actual things that have happened.

Regards, Sue