

## **UUCSC Board of Directors Meeting**

December 6, 2023

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

**Absent:** Director Bethany Sorrentino

**Call to Order:** 7:15 PM by Nancy Richman

**Reading of the Covenant:** Nancy Richman

**Invocation:** Rev. Denis L. Paul

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

**Staff reports:** Appended

### **UPDATES**

1. Further analysis of the accounts indicates there will NOT be a cash deficit for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2023 due to:

a. money released from restricted funds

b. prepaid pledges

c. depreciation figures that do not reflect actual expenses ( although no funds have been aside as should be to replace worn equipment, etc.)

The UUCSC 2022-23 fiscal year ended with a positive \$6700 in cash flow.

2. Michael Bilecki has become the new chair of the Facilities committee.

3. The Breeze church management system is operational and everyone should check their personal account to update their information if necessary.

4. Board liaisons will report about their committee contacts at the January Board meeting.

5. The End-of-Year Appeal has begun and could use promotion.

### **Discussions:**

1. The Personnel committee proposed changing the policy for RE background checks. The Board recommends that the committee do more research before submitting a written proposal.

2. A Congregational meeting regarding the financial and social/spiritual health of UUCSC is planned for Saturday February 3 from 10-12. A light lunch will follow.

3. A congregational read of Michelle Obama's book *The Light We Carry* will be

facilitated by the Board via Zoom from 6:30 - 8:00 on January 17, 24 and 31. Everyone in the congregation is invited to participate in the discussions. More information will be forthcoming in the e-news.

**Adjourned:** 8:00 PM

Mary Fulton, Clerk

**Next Board meeting:** January 3 via Zoom

**Next Coordinating Council meeting:** January 10 (via Zoom)) 4:00 - 5:30pm

### **Staff Reports**

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

December 5, 2023

Dear Members of the Board of Directors,

Since my last report, I've led the following services:

11/5/23 "Hope and Keep Busy," with Adria Evans

11/12/23 "Abundance and Scarcity," with Elizabeth Donovan

11/26/23 Assisting Rev. Darrick Jackson, "A Generous Garden"

12/3/23 "Fake It Til You Make It," with Lee Cowan

Following are my thoughts on the three areas of ministry:

#### Worship Life

Worship Assistants are scheduled for another grounding session on January 13. Everyone who is interested in sharing spiritual reflections during Sunday services is encouraged to attend. Our goal is to be always improving the quality of the the services by giving lay people more skills and confidence in leading. To the same end, in late January several of the Worship Committee members and I will be attending a worship and Music Training with Matt Meyer at the UU Parish in Kingston, MA. The event is sponsored by the Ballou Channing Chapter of the UU Ministers Association, whose executive I serve as co-convener.

I should probably mention here as a reminder that there will be no regular Sunday service on Christmas Eve. As Mike and I are planning the Christmas Eve service, Lee and I are leading two consecutive services to celebrate the UU festival of light and luminescence during the first week of December. I was pleasantly reminded on Sunday, when I talked in my sermon about the challenges of the holiday (formerly known as Chalica) that this congregation is understanding of the hurt caused by appropriation and energetic about preserving the traditions of this congregation as we move forward. Creating something new always feels so energizing here, even when other

congregations give up. There's a strong sense here that this is about creating a future for our youth, and that the responsibility to do so is bigger than just this congregation.

### Congregational Life

The Sidekicks program seems to be going very well. Everyone involved seems happy to get a chance to connect with someone. There's a near universal gratitude for getting a chance to connect, even if it's just one time over coffee. We continue to ask Sidekicks to connect with one another at Quarterly Dinners.

The Dinners of course continue. We have them scheduled for this Friday (12/8 for the UU holiday, and 2/9 for either Valentine's Day or Birthdays. Theme TBD.). This month we'll be trying something new: a "task basket," which has been a successful way other UU congregations have divided up labor. We'll likely always have the challenge of the world's smallest "church kitchen," but it will hopefully make things less frustrating.

### Community Life

Rev. Eric Cherry at Westminster U in East Greenwich and I have planned on a pulpit exchange on February 4, at which time, we'll both talk about our hopes for bringing our two congregations together in the spring to talk about the proposed revision to Article II of the UUA bylaws. (The "seven words" to replace the seven or eight Principles.) If those gatherings are successful, we're hoping to suggest virtually attending together at least some of the plenary sessions at General Assembly in July. (The entire GA is virtual in 2024.)

I've been feeling a lack of interfaith involvement in South Kingstown, but my hope is that as the 2024 RI Legislative season picks up after the holidays there will be more opportunities for social justice engagement.

Next Furlough Week: December 11-18

Next Study Weekly: December 25 - January 1

In Peace,  
Rev. Denis Paul

December 2023  
DRE Board Report  
Dear Board,

Our time downstairs continues to be multi-generational with all ages of kids from 1 yr old Bobby to 17 yr old Saylor. Many parents are also participating in our circles, crafts and discussions. We also consistently have Nick Smith from the choir come visit with his guitar and songs. And Allie Rice and her mom Mary Finnegan visited RE with an awesome crochet craft for the kids. It's a beautiful thing. And we would love to share it with anyone from the congregation! So instead of a general invitation, I'm going to start signing people up for specific Sundays to come join us in RE. Let's start with the Board. I will email you to arrange a visit.

The RE Committee met last Sunday after service and got input from several parents who were still there. We are looking forward to the Chalice-side chat this Sunday, Dec. 10th after service. We will discuss a UU Summer Camp and getting congregants involved in RE.

For our middle schoolers, Andrew White (Bobby's dad :) has offered to host a Dungeons and Dragons campaign, which will incorporate UU values and be an amazing team building experience. It's perfect timing as our older kids are ready for something new and fun. The Holiday Fair was such a joyous event. It was great to have our little RE table and to be part of such a vibrant community.

The elementary OWL training was a complete success. It was fantastic to host people from so many different congregations. The only thing to change for the future was that it was too much for me to both host and coordinate meals/clean-up and also participate in the training. We had four people from our congregation trained, including me and we plan to offer one or two OWL classes this spring in collaboration with Westminster.

The "Faith Building" conversation on Nov. 9th with Elizabeth Quincy was wonderful and inspiring. She gave a presentation about neurodiversity with lots of examples and stories from her own experience. We are talking about how to continue this conversation and learning with the congregation and plan to have a whole service and then chalice-side chat on this topic. Looking ahead, I'm getting ready for our Solstice service on Dec. 17th. The Labyrinth Walk will most likely be on the actual Winter Solstice, Thursday Dec. 21st.

Thanks all! I look forward to seeing you downstairs  
Lee

## **Office Administrator Board Report, December 2023**

### **Holiday Fair**

There was a lot going on this month! I assisted Trish Hindley with various aspects of preparation for the Holiday Fair and assisted Elizabeth Donovan a very tiny amount with keeping track of payments to the Holiday Fair Map.

### **OWL Classes**

I provided logistical support to the Adult OWL training and the Elementary OWL Training, including preparing materials, processing registrations, and issuing payments.

### **Special Mailings**

I provided logistical support to the end-of-year appeal mailing and prepared mailing labels for a mailing from the Finance Committee.

### **Hurdis Fund**

I continue to forward applications to the committee for their consideration and to write checks and send letters to grant recipients. Gail Burchard and I are working together to keep better track of grants received and grants awarded.

### **Breeze**

We have made progress correcting the information that was uploaded to Breeze. I sent out guidance about how to enter events in the calendar, which I hope will be useful.

### **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

**December 2023**

**FA Report to the Board**

Dear Board members,

This month I have continued to perform the monthly and daily financial activities. This includes reviewing and making all payments in a timely manner, bank account reconciliations, updating QuickBooks with all payments and deposits prepared by Jeff, completing all General Ledger entries requested by Mary Alice and running all monthly financials. I also complete the Treasurer's report now, however Mary Alice does have to update the report with some investment activity while reviewing the report for accuracy.

I also wanted to mention what a help Sara has been. She scans all of my correspondence and emails it to me. This allows me to have all invoices and make payments in a timely manner. It also gives me time to get any needed approvals and investigate anything that needs follow-up.

Regards,

Sue