

UUCSC Board of Directors Meeting

February 7, 2024 via Zoom

Present: President Nancy Richman, VP Trish Hindley, Directors Charlie Donnelly, Russell Stokes, Bethany Sorrentino and Rev. Denis Letourneau Paul

Absent: Clerk Mary Fulton, Treasurer Mary Alice Kimball

Call to Order: 6:04 PM by Nancy Richman

Reading of the Covenant: Nancy Richman

Invocation: Rev. Denis L. Paul

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

Staff reports: Appended

Updates: The budget review will take place in March. Currently the budget is in good shape.

MOTION: Nancy Richman moves that the Board approve the Personnel committee recommendation for a change in policy. The policy will read: *All new staff hires and all RE volunteers and instructors, who are required supervising adults in any RE space, must complete or show evidence of a federal background check (Bureau of Criminal Investigation-BCI). Parents of children in RE and visitors are exempt. See our Congregational Administrator to complete the BCI.* **PASSED**

Motion: Nancy moves to use \$15,000 from the Capital campaign for a new air conditioner.

PASSED

Old Business

Reports from committee liaisons

Personnel:

1. working to develop a group to replace the Financial administrator
2. Contracts to be renewed in the spring are being worked on
3. Considering a change in the DRE's title

Worship and Music:

Request volunteers for Zoom both as virtual hosts and as in person support for zooming

Fundraising:

The title for Dining for \$\$\$ will now include Nancy Rose's name in honor of her service as founder of the fundraiser.

Facilities:

1. The thermostat was moved from the library to the hallway
2. Mike Bilecki will meet with Summit Plumbing about the boiler
3. Recruiting volunteers for outside spring cleanup
4. Meeting with Finance to discuss upcoming budget needs

Pastoral Care:

Most requests go directly to Rev. Denis

Helping Hands: Meals sent to 2 congregants. People can request rides to UUCSC.

Committee on Ministry:

Will evaluate the minister in the spring

Adult Ed:

OWL for older adults going well. Sandra Laub was amazing

RE:

OWL for younger kids will begin soon. There will be a parent orientation. Dungeons and Dragons after the Sunday service has been going well

Nominating:

Trish Hindley is stepping down as vice President. Russell Stokes will stand for that position.

Communications:

A subcommittee is working on cleaning up information on the website

Social Justice:

Two presentations by the Tomaquag Museum will be funded by the Hurdis Fund in March

Stewardship:

The campaign for 2024-25 begins 2/14 and ends 3/19

Debrief - All Congregation Meeting

1. Discussed the overwhelming amount of information that was gathered. Need more discussion
2. Discussed the importance of nurturing the families at UUCSC
3. Nancy will post opportunities for congregants to volunteer to manage some of the great suggestions

Adjourned: 8:03 PM

Minutes based on notes taken by Trish Hindley
Mary Fulton, Clerk

Next Board meeting: March 6, (via Zoom) 6:00-8:00pm (Trish will chair)
Next Coordinating Council meeting: March 13 (via Zoom) 4:00-5:30pm

Staff Reports

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

January 31, 2024

Dear Members of the Board of Directors,

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

1/7/24 "The Universal Community," with Sue Strakosch

1/14/24 "The Fondness Factor," with Elizabeth Donovan

Following are my thoughts on the three areas of ministry:

Worship Life

UUCSC is being blessed by the presence of really great guest ministers and speakers this winter. Sandra Laub brought her incredible show "Picking Up Stones" to the wider community then spoke to our congregation the next day. Reggie Gibson from RI Black Storytellers (RIBS) delivered a timely, personal, and very UU sermon. On 2/4 I will be doing a pulpit exchange with Rev. Eric Cherry from Westminster, and two weeks later, Rev. Carie Johnson, a UU Chaplain in RI, will preach. What a gift to have such high quality people filling out worship!

During January, a few members of Worship and Music committees and I got to attend a workshop on music in services, presented by the Ballou Channing chapter of the UU Ministers Association. Even though I was one of the planners, it wasn't quite what I expected: more about music as liturgy and less about the mechanics of leading music. We all got a chance to think a bit more expansively about creating an immersive experience.

February is Black History Month and our theme is equity and justice, then March is Women's History Month and our theme is transformation. Both themes relate to the seven words that make up the proposed Article 2.

Congregational Life

We have a big personnel challenge upon us, and that is finding a replacement for Sue Rogala, who informed us she will be leaving soon. A big part of the challenge, as I work with folks from finance and personnel, will be to provide a clear job title and job description.

On Saturday 2/3 we will have a congregational meeting, an informal conversation in the sanctuary that will hopefully further define the roadmap the board and other committees can use to live into our mission more deeply toward our hopes and goals for the future. These conversations, along with things like the shared read of *The Light We Carry* by Michelle Obama are really helping to connect leadership with the congregation, further deepening relationships of trust.

In March, in response to direct and indirect requests, I will be starting a regular once a month meditation circle on Wednesday afternoons in the sanctuary, focusing on four different inns of meditation: naming, knowing, listening and loving as articulated by Rev. Erik Walker Wikstrom, former director of worship resources for the UUA.

Community Life

We've been hosting so many events open to the public in the last few weeks, between "Picking Up Stones," RIBS and the Sine Nomine concert, that we feel more connected than we've ever been. It's also been wonderful to go to community events like FundaFest and the Washington County Service Fair and interact with some of our members.

In the coming months, we'll be in conversation with Westminster UU about Article 2 in preparation for General Assembly (GA). Dates are forthcoming. I have also reached out to RI Elder Info about doing a seminar for UUCSC and members of the Community on preparing for the end of life. It's a tough subject, but one that comes up frequently as we all seek accompaniment facing the inevitable.

Next Furlough Week: February 12-19

In Peace,
Rev. Denis Paul

February 2024: DRE Board Report

RE has been growing in the last month! We have two new families who are coming regularly, plus 3 new high schoolers who are coming for Dungeons and Dragons. Our numbers have been between 15 and 21 the last three Sundays. It feels full and lively down here. We created a growing LOVE collective art project in the hallway between the downstairs bathrooms: all are invited to come add to it! We've had some fabulous discussions about justice, equity, responsibility, addressing root causes of problems, teamwork, generosity...it's very

inspiring.

Nancy Richman visited us last Sunday and it was so wonderful to have her as a guest.

Who's

next? :) Just send me an email or come find me after service. You don't need to bring anything

or plan anything, just come hang out with us. And you could come just for the first half hour and

then go back upstairs! Anything works, we'd love more adult visitors.

I was part of the discussion about art in the sanctuary and I'm excited to host a paper mache

making party on Feb. 25th. Come down after service to make a giant "bead" for our art installation for the month of March with the theme "transformation"

Each month I've been pulling out the exercises, videos and articles that I like from the Soul

Matters curriculum and adding them to my section of the newsletter. I also put some question

prompts and exercises up on the bulletin board in the Oneto Room. That bulletin board has

traditionally been a kids space, but I'm expanding it to include all ages. I'd love some feedback

on both avenues of sharing (newsletter and bulletin board) and what else would be helpful to

include there.

I renewed my LREDA membership and also joined some discussion groups for UU religious

educators. I'm looking forward to a renewed connection with colleagues.

I attended a "music in worship" workshop with Matt Meyer, which was very inspiring.

I'm on the

lookout for more workshops and classes, so let me know if you come across any.

We're gearing up to start our OWL for K/1st graders with a parent/child orientation on Feb. 25

and the first class on March 3rd. We have 10 kids in that age group in our congregation, and

hopefully they'll all be able to attend.

Some parents have requested that we stream the service downstairs so parents who are

hanging out in the nursery can tune in. We are going to try that this week by joining the service

by zoom and connecting it to a TV. We'll see what happens!

I'm interested in helping to organize all the many ideas that came out of the congregational

meeting, so let me know how I can help.

Thanks all,

Lee

Office Administrator Board Report, February 2024

Doors, Locks and Keys

We had The Lock Shop come re-key some locks to which the keys had been misplaced, and while they were here, they re-activated the keyless entry code system and showed me how to use it. During the time the system was dormant, the information about assigned codes was erased from the laptop we use to assign codes. Fortunately, that information was stored elsewhere. Betsy Dalton has taken a first pass at that data and a big project for next month will be to update that list and review the protocols for assigning new codes and deleting inactive ones.

UUA Certification and Annual Report to the RI Secretary of State

UUA Certification was completed before the Feb. 5 deadline. Thanks to Mary Alice Kimball, Mary Fulton and Sue Rogala for their input. The Annual Report for the State of Rhode Island was filed on Feb. 1.

The Printer

As of this writing the printer is scheduled to be picked up on Feb. 6th. Many thanks to Aline Couture, for arranging the shipping. I am learning the ins and outs of using the new printer, and while some things are a little more cumbersome, I am convinced the cost savings will make it worth the extra effort. Unfortunately, we are probably over our allotment on color copies for this last month.

Stewardship

Due to the timing of my February vacation and the shipping of the printer, materials were prepared for the annual stewardship campaign before the end of January. Many thanks to Mary Fulton and Sky Kimball for getting everything to me ahead of schedule.

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

January 2024

FA Report to the Board

Dear Board members,

This month was a little busier than normal. I did start out the month a little behind due to some personal issues. Mary Alice did have to help with some activities, like the Treasurers Report. I am still catching up with some current monthly duties. I did work with Mary Alice to complete the financial section of the UUA certification. I finally completed the financial information for the 1023 for Jeane Burke to file for tax-exempt status. This did take a lot of time and I am sure there might be more work needed after

it is reviewed. The 1099's that need to be reported have been identified. I should be mailing the needed forms in the next few days to the recipients and the IRS in order to meet the IRS deadline of January 31st.

Regards,
Sue