

UUCSC Board of Directors Meeting

April 3, 2024 via Zoom

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

Call to Order: 6:01 PM by Nancy Richman

Reading of the Covenant: Nancy Richman

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

Staff reports: Appended.

Treasurer's report: Appended. The current cash flow is nice right now with expenses as expected. The Finance committee will prepare a proposed budget on 4/11 that the Board will review by May 1 for a vote by 5/15. The Facilities committee is requesting a budget line of approximately \$40,000 for capital expenses.

OLD BUSINESS

Strategic planning: Discussion included a need to communicate with the congregation about plans to implement things as a result of the input received at the congregational meeting. Board members were urged to connect with new visitors asking "What brings you here? How can we help?"

Coordinating Council: This governance structure will remain although the assignment of Board liaisons to clusters was reviewed and a change made based on personal availability.

NEW BUSINESS

- Summer Board gathering likely in August
- Spring Fire drill will happen after the service on April 28. There will be advanced notice so the congregation is prepared.
- The fall fire drill will be October 13
- The Annual meeting will be June 9
- The Finance committee has lost several members and a new chair is needed.
- The Facilities committee will be asked to determine how to price rental requests for recurring sessions.
- UUCSC can send 3 delegates to General Assembly in June. Interested parties should contact the Board to be appointed.

- We will recommend four names to replace Ministry committee members retiring this year.
- Discussion ensued regarding new families attending RE and how to connect them in overall church activities. We were made aware of open jobs in RE.
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Adjourned 7:50 PM

Mary Fulton, Clerk

Next Board meeting: May 1, (via Zoom) 6:00-8:00pm
Next Coordinating Council meeting May 8 (via Zoom) 4:00-5:30pm
Annual meeting June 9, 2024

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

March 27, 2024

Dear Members of the Board of Directors,

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

3/3/24 "Naming, Knowing, Listening and Loving," with Adria Evan's

3/10/24 "The 'Feminization' of Ministry"

3/24/24 "Framed!", with Elizabeth Donovan

In the midst of a very busy late winter and spring, here are my thoughts on three areas of ministry:

Worship Life

The worship services I will be leading through June are all planned, and I am in the midst of gathering resources for all of them. I am happy that worship assistants will be joining me for most of them.

A couple more people are interested in serving as worship assistants. One is even interested in leading worship and preaching occasionally.

Lee, Mike and I have begun meeting every other month to talk exclusively about upcoming worship, which has been helpful. (Staff continues to meet on the other months, so the meetings alternate on the first Thursday.)

The Meditation Circle on March 3 was a success! 14 people were present in the . They all had great questions about how to use the prayer beads in their own practices, and expressed interest in coming once a month, but preferably twice a month. I will try scheduling two circles per month, at different times, to also accommodate others who have expressed interest.

Congregational Life

It's official. The summer program has a name: "The Wunder Academy of Metamorphosis." (For legal reasons, we can't call it a camp. Technically it isn't anyway, since there are no sleepovers). Based on her research, Lee and I spent several sessions and many hours coming up with the name, framework, theme, inspiring ideas/words/phrases, goals, and objectives which were presented to the stakeholders last week. At the meeting, the enthusiasm and ideas were infectious as we actually brainstormed. There are still MANY details to iron out, but it's feeling real now. Next week, Lee and i will be attending an online panel discussion on UU summer programs.

I am also in the process of planning three inter-related stand alone classes for adult UU faith formation, to be presented in fall 2024, spring 2025 and fall 2025. The series will be called "Making Us Us," and the classes will focus on Rites, Rituals and Practices of UU; UU Theologies (yes, that's plural theologies); and Writing Your Own Credo. I'll be spending a good chunk of my study time in April planning.

The Membership Committee and I are in the midst of new membership season. We are offering a new to UUCSC class in advance of the May 5 New Member Recognition Ceremony. There were 7 new folks at the first class.

The first Congregational dinner of 2025 is scheduled for April 5. We have a great crew of cooks, people who are willing and able to cook part of the meal at home, and bring it to the Oneto Room on time, plus birthday cake bakers (one for each season!). The meal is deconstructed Asian-inspired, accessible by all.

The pledge drive has come to an end for the year, and we are (at the moment) somewhere around \$20k shy of our goal. Will there be a "second ask" as there was last year? I will help in any way I can.

Community Life

We had our first Article II conversation with Westminster last month. There were only two of us from UUCSC and fewer than ten from Westminster. Though the conversation was robust and meaningful, I hope we can get a better turnout when we host on April 14. If we get a bit more interest, Rev. Eric Cherry and I would still like to combine General Assembly (GA) viewing "parties" in June. GA is all-virtual this year.

I will also be hosting the Spring Forum of the UU Legislative Ministry of RI at Westminster on April 7. Everyone interested in the UU approach to informing the current legislative session is welcome to join us.

Meanwhile, we are planning to have a table/booth at south Kingstown Pride in June. Sadly, the day-long event happening in the middle of GA.

Housekeeping

My next furlough week is April 12-17, followed by a study week April 19-24.

I have submitted a proposed schedule for the 2024-2025 congregational year to Nancy Richman, but because The Wunder Academy can ONLY happen during my first furlough week of the year, and GA2025 is scheduled earlier than usual on my last furlough week of the year, I may have to rethink it!

In Peace,

Rev. Denis Paul

April 2024
DRE Board Report

Dear Board,

People are getting excited about the Wunder Academy of Metamorphosis. It's so wonderful. We had a meeting with about 10 people to brainstorm activities, overarching storyline, and even a mascot. We're thinking of the native Leopard Frog. We have six families who have verbally committed to the week of August 19th, plus Simon and Saylor (our two high school seniors) helping out. I'd love to bring back some recent high school graduates to help as well. And any adults from the congregation are welcome to come be part of it! Just email me to get involved. Our next planning meeting is April 25th at 1pm.

OWL for Kindergarten/1st grade is going really well. The kids are so enthusiastic about it! We have four more sessions for the month of April and then a closing celebration on April 28th.

Dungeons and Dragons will be wrapping up this session in the next few weeks. But they are talking of starting up again on Wednesdays after school once Andrew goes back to work and can't be here on Sundays.

Sundays continue to feel full with an average of 13 kids. With the theme of transformation this month we practiced various types of breathing and movement exercises from kundalini yoga that can transform our emotional and mental state. We went through a full experience of the "Naming, Knowing, Listening, Loving" meditation using the beads we made. We had a full equinox circle did our annual egg divination ritual. We planted peas in the raised bed. And I loved being part of the Easter service. We had a fun egg hunt outside, even though there were very few kids that day. We're looking forward to hosting Nancy and Bina this Sunday to show us their safari slides!

I've been helping with the sanctuary art each month, and just helped create the artwork for April and "interdependence" with Barbara N and Barbara P :) And we will be having a collaborative art gathering on April 28th after service to help Barbara P collage on her beautiful pieces of homemade paper. All are welcome to join in after the fire drill.

And we're gearing up for our second annual all congregation birthday party this Friday! I feel great about how many people are helping out. We've found volunteers for all the cake baking and all the food prep that we wanted help with! We will do the same process for clean-up as we did last time, drawing slips of paper for different tasks.

Thanks for all you do!

Lee

Staff Changes

I was happy to be included in the hiring process for the new Financial Administrator. I look forward to working with Karen St. Peter.

Stewardship

This month we completed the Stewardship campaign. I coordinated with Mary Fulton and Jeff Berry to keep track of the incoming pledges.

Breeze

We continue to update information and address glitches in the system as they arise. One long-term project I hope to take on over the summer is to reach out to people in the Breeze system individually to verify that we have correct information.

Facilities

This month we had an inquiry about using the Oneto Room for an ongoing class. According to my reading of the Facilities Use Guidelines, we have pricing for single events up to 4 hours, but not for long-term classes, which would more likely be one hour long, plus set up and clean up time, so maybe an hour and a half. Although she was charging for the class, the \$100.00 fee was prohibitive for this woman's purposes. We made the Oneto Room available for the yoga class for no fee. Participants paid the teacher and the class was arranged by some members who are affiliated with the yoga teacher. I'm wondering if the facilities committee or the board should discuss a discounted fee for someone who wants to run an ongoing class.

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

April 2024

FA Report to the Board

Dear Board Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to work at UUCSC again, it's so nice to be back! Even though I'm not technically in the building all that much, I feel very welcomed here and it's a nice way to start a new job, so I appreciate that.

I started off this position in March by meeting with Sue R. and Mary Alice over a 2-day period in order to go over the responsibilities and some technicalities of the job, which went very well. I feel like the accounts and activities were all transitioned successfully, and I am currently in the process of finalizing all recording of March transactions into QuickBooks so that I can reconcile the month's end. Mary Alice and I have a meeting on Apr. 9th to finalize the month. One of my initial tasks was to ensure payroll was completed for March, so I'm happy to report everyone was paid appropriately 😊.

I'm also in the process of re-familiarizing myself with the week-to-week activities associated with this position, and look forward to continuing to support the financial administration of UUCSC. I will be "catching up" over this week and next, and will update you accordingly next month.

Best,
Karen