

UUCSC Board of Directors Meeting

May 1, 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: 6:07 PM by Nancy Richman

Reading of the Covenant: Nancy Richman

Invocation: Rev. Denis Paul

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

Staff reports: Appended.

OLD BUSINESS

2024/25 Operating Budget planning:

The 2023/24 budget was \$234,420 with a deficit of \$21,117,20 projected. At this time, once again, it appears there maybe no deficit once the fiscal year is completed. The Finance committee has offered a proposed budget for 2024/25 of \$236,294 with a projected deficit of \$30,092.50. This budget does not address a request from the Facilities committee to allocate \$36,000 for building repairs. Such a capital expense might require a capital campaign.

The source of funds for the 2024/25 budget are: \$1000 from interest, \$13,175 from rentals, \$1140 from AA, \$3500 from occasional donations, \$12,000 from Dining4\$\$\$, \$4000 from the Holiday Fair, and \$187,418 from pledges.

The \$8800 increase between this year's budget and 2024/25 is due to a change in staffing. The Financial Administrator will go from 5 hours to 10.

The full share funding requested from the UUA is approximately \$15,000 but the budget will again allocate only \$5000.

MOTION: Russell Stokes moves to accept the amended budget as proposed with a \$30,092.50 deficit.

PASSED unanimously.

2 new members for the Committee on Ministry:

17 names were submitted and 5 were given to Rev. Denis Paul to contact with the full list as backup.

NEW BUSINESS

Fire Drill:

The April 28 drill went well taking only 2 minutes and 10 seconds to evacuate the building. Things learned were: the importance of asking people to move away from the

entrance, designating a safe close place for mobility challenged people to gather, and the benefit of assigning a "Fire Marshall" rather than the Board president to plan and conduct the drills. The next drill will be October 13.

Adjourned 7:45 PM

Mary Fulton, Clerk

Next Board meeting: June 5, (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

April 25, 2024

Dear Members of the Board of Directors,

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

3/29/24 Tenebrae Sundown Candlelight Service

3/31/24 "They Persisted," Easter service with Lee Cowan

4/7/24 "Stealing A Soul"

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

Worship Life

On the two Sundays during my recent furlough week and subsequent study week, my presence was needed for meetings after the services. It's a rare treat getting to be present for worship when I had no input into the services, led entirely by laypeople. Member Chris Johnson did a fine job, as did non-member Deirdre O'Connor, though she was very difficult to hear. (Since nobody can MAKE anyone speak up and stay close to the microphone, I wonder if we can get more volume out of our system?) Worship leaders Nancy Richman and Adria Evans are so comfortable and adaptable in their roles that the services went along smoothly. The success of those two services is a good reminder to all of us why we have lay-led services. Without significantly adapting any part of the liturgy, they are completely different from what I offer, addressing a diversity of needs and expectations.

In May I'll be offering our third Mediation Circle and our fourth Worship Assistant Grounding.

Art in the sanctuary has been incredible: creative, polished, and inclusive. It's getting hard to remember what the space looks like without art on that front wall.

Congregational Life

Planning for "The Wunder Academy of Metamorphosis" continues with input from potential participants, their parents and others in the congregation who don't have children in the RE program. It's becoming an opportunity for outreach, In reach, deepening relationships, expressing creativity, and going deeper spiritually.

I am construing to work on Adult continuing education curricula for next year, focused on UU rituals, practices and theologies.

It looks we'll have five new people joining on May 5, with a few more who are pledging as friends, hoping to become members in the near future. For the record, I never encourage people to join too quickly. My experience is that when people commit to quickly, the first sign of conflict (which is unavoidable, because we're humans) can push them away.

Community Life

We had our second Article II conversation with Westminster a couple weeks ago with seven members attending from each congregation. It looks like a couple participants may be interested in representing our congregation as delegates at General Assembly (GA) in June. Clearly there isn't much interest in doing a joint days-long watching party.

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.

Two different pride events are coming up in June, one in North Kingstown on 6/2 and one in Wakefield on 6/22. Hopefully we'll have great presence for both, offering support and ministry as a service to LGBT+ folks in South County. Could we have a car or three in the Wakefield parade? All of our joyful queer members and friends, in the style of old school marches?

Housekeeping

My next furlough week is May 14-19, during which I will be visiting friends in Seattle, WA. A rare treat to get to travel for pleasure! I've also moved my August furlough back one week to accommodate the Wunder Academy schedule.

No funds have been disbursed from the AGAPE fund since my last report.

In Peace,
Rev. Denis Paul

April 2024

DRE Report

Dear Board,

We've now had two meetings for our summer program, The Wunder Academy of Metamorphosis and we have a lot of people who are excited about it. We have a volunteer list of 17 people who have specifically said they will help out planning and running the program. Plus we have six families who have said they will send their kids for a total of 14 kids and a possibility of two or three more. This is really coming together. Within our theme of metamorphosis, each day will be devoted to a different element (earth, water, fire, air and spirit) and we will have a storyline running through the week with a mystery to solve by the end. We have craft and project plans for each day with an opening and closing circle, lunch and snack together. And we can always use more volunteers! So let me know if you're interested in being part of it. There's something for everyone. OWL for Kindergarten/1st graders finished up last Sunday with the kids sharing with their parents some of the things they learned and talked about during the program. And then we had a celebration with the food the kids requested: cake, ice cream and broccoli. A delicious ending to a very successful first K/1 OWL class! We would like to run this aged class every other year and the 4th-6th grade class on alternate years. We could use some more people trained to facilitate this elementary age group, so let me know if you're interested in attending a training! We need a third staff member downstairs! I have listed the job opening in the Child Development Center at URI and in another online babysitting forum, plus contacted half a dozen grad students at URI, but have not found someone available on Sunday mornings. Let's please start spreading this word of mouth and see if we can find someone and I will find more places to post it. Any suggestions appreciated. Dungeons and Dragons will no longer be running on Sundays because Andrew works weekends during fishing season. So we are hoping to continue it after school on a weekday, but have yet to find a day that works for everyone. Looking forward to our May Day celebration on May 1st. I want to make it a tradition to celebrate the Winter Solstice on the actual date of the solstice and Beltane on May 1st. And I'd like to add in a Samhain (aka Halloween) celebration as well.

Thanks all!

Lee

Office Administrator Board Report, May 2024

Finances Mary Alice compiled a list of uncashed checks from the last 3 years. I was able to help figure out what happened to at least some of them and will continue to work with Mary Alice and Karen St. Peter to solve the rest of the mysteries.

Announcements This month we will start including a listing of upcoming congregational events in the Order of Service of the last service of the preceding month, in hopes of making the information readily available to all.

Breeze It's been great that so many people are putting their own meetings and events in the Breeze calendar! Please remember to let the office know about events you'd like to have included in the monthly list of announcements referenced above.

Facilities This month we had an inquiry about using the Oneto Room for a weekly Al-Anon meeting. Based on the feedback from the board about the last inquiry and information in the handbook, Rev. Denis and I decided to go ahead and make the space available. Meetings will start later this month.

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 Karen St. Peter, in addition to producing the weekly order of service.

Best,

Sara Kaplow

Office Administrator

May 2024

FA Report to the Board

Dear Board Members,

March's month was reconciled smoothly, but not without some hiccups in other financial areas. All have been resolved and were seemingly a result of transition.

The month of March was reconciled in early April, with the aid of Sue R. Trying to reconcile the month on my own (after not having opened QuickBooks in almost four years) made me a little unsure in some areas, so I reached out to Sue, and she kindly assisted me and Mary Alice in closing out the month. After the process was complete, I felt much more familiar with the software again and confident about doing this on my own. If I do have any questions when closing out the month of April during Mary Alice's absence (May 3-11), Sue agreed to be available.

After having switched all banking and credit card accounts from Sue R. to myself in mid-March, a fraud alert was put on all of our staff credit card accounts in April, which led to them putting a hold alert on them, which then led to them all being cancelled(!!!).

Thankfully, after Mary Alice and Aline spoke to the credit card company and fulfilled all of their requests (which included sending the UUCSC articles of incorporation), the cards have been re-activated.

Also during our transition meeting in mid-March, Sue R. and I edited some automatic bill payments through Washington Trust. In turn, Washington Trust decided to cancel some of them altogether, which Mary Alice was able to rectify with the representative there. I'm in the process of organizing and re-familiarizing myself with the weekly and monthly tasks in this position, which is going really well. Working with Mary Alice is so easy, and I am finding very comfortable in this position. Thank you so much again for the opportunity to be working again with UUCSC!

Kindest Regards,
Karen