

UUCSC Board of Directors Meeting

September 4, 2024

Oneto Room

Present: President Nancy Richman, VP Russell Stokes, Clerk Mary Fulton, Directors Kelsey Briggs, Chris Johnson and Bethany Sorrentino and Rev. Denis Letourneau Paul

Absent: Treasurer Mary Alice Kimball

Guests: Michael Bilecki, Jean Burke, Lee Cowan

Call to Order: 7:00 PM by Nancy Richman

Invocation: Langston Hughes: Hold fast to dreams

MOTION: Bethany moves to ratify the August minutes that were approved via email. PASSED

Staff reports are appended.

Treasurer's report: Finance chair, Elizabeth Donovan, states there is nothing new to report.

Facilities use issues:

MOTION: Nancy moves to accept the recommendation of our insurance company, Church Mutual, to disallow use of the playground equipment during non-church sponsored activities.

PASSED, 1 opposed, 1 abstained

Learning Lab rental of the RE space

Elizabeth Swain can provide insurance that is acceptable to Church Mutual

A zoning certificate has been obtained

Jean Burke will draft an appropriate rental lease once the terms of use are established

The first floor will be off limits to the Learning Lab participants

No one from UUCSC will enter the RE space when The Lab is using it on Monday or Wednesday

There is no access to the pond from our property

The Lab will provide lockable storage

Elizabeth will dispose of trash, clean the bathrooms and sanitize surfaces

A drop point for the students will be established at the back of the building

The rental fee will be \$600.00 per month with a 1- month security deposit

A key to the back door will be given to Elizabeth

Insurance advice from Church Mutual:

All non-church sponsored events and programs should provide insurance coverage naming UUSCS an "additional insured". Revision of the current facilities use guidelines should occur after conferring with Church Mutual.

Facilities concerns:

Two areas of the roof are in serious condition. Immediate repairs are needed. Estimates have been presented to the Finance committee but no recommendation has been made. Due to the timeliness of the needed repairs the Board is moving forward on this.

MOTION: Nancy moves that \$15,000 be allocated to repair the 2 roof areas most in need of immediate repairs. Possible sources for this allocation are the UUA fund, cashing a CD, the \$15,000 put a side for emergency use or the mortgage fund.

PASSED unanimously

OLD BUSINESS:

Bethany and Kelsey will be co-coordinators of the Clean Team.

The Board retreat will take place Oct. 9. Due to 3 absences there will be no October Board meeting and any necessary business will take place at the retreat.

Adjourned 9:00pm

Submitted by Mary Fulton, Clerk

Next Board meeting: November 6 7:00-9:00 pm Oneto Room

Next Coordinating Council: September 11 4:00-5:30pm - Zoom

STAFF REPORTS

At the time of this writing, it looks like the Learning Lab will be using our downstairs (RE) space two days per week, bringing in a modest income and just as importantly creating a new partnership with a like-minded community organization. THANK YOU to Nancy Richman, Jean Burk, Bethany Sorrentino, Russell Stokes, and of course Lee Cowan for making this happen so quickly. Without your fast action, quick research, and openness to change, this could never have happened. On September 28 UUCSC will be volunteering as a group with Habitat for Humanity to help build some houses in South County. One of the biggest justice issues in RI is accessibility to affordable housing, so this will give us a chance to actually DO something to create change, even if our hours are just a drop in an enormous bucket. Nancy and I are hoping to get to climb around on roofs, but there's enough work for all abilities and skills, so please join us! Yesterday for the first time I declined another opportunity to emcee the RI UU Legislative Ministry Forum scheduled for October. The Forums are basically downloads of information regarding upcoming bills, and have left me feeling hopeless

and overwhelmed, like our state legislature is hopelessly stuck. UUCSC is already connected to other (more effective) organizations that get out the same information. With only five UU congregations in the state, our presence feels too small to make much difference, especially without a focus on just 2-3 issues. I let them know that the Social Justice council and I are happy to be part of direct actions and even rethinking the focus of the Legislative Ministry. Housekeeping My next furlough week is September 17-22. Since my last report, I have sent an AGAPE Fund check for \$1,200 to South County Habitat for Humanity, as a kind of advance on sharing the plate with them in November and December. The funds from that collection will go back into the AGAPE Fund, though likely not as much as \$1,200. In the off chance that our collection exceeds \$1,200, those funds will go to Habitat. In Peace, Rev. Denis Paul

Office Administrator Board Report, September 2024

Special Events

I provided coordination and support for the Wunder Academy of Transformation, ensuring that the office had background checks on file for the volunteers per the board's decision.

Facilities

There was a lot of excitement in facilities this summer, with AC issues and a mold problem in one of the offices upstairs. I helped coordinate communication between Jean and the tenants as various solutions were considered, and access to the building for Koolco, Tony Jaeger, and the painter.

We also received a few requests for use of the facilities that were not the usual one-time requests, for instance for a wedding or memorial service, that I have processed in the past. Thanks to all who provided guidance about considering these types of requests. I look forward to streamlining the process for considering these types of requests in the future.

Worship

I worked with Adria and other members of the worship committee to support Sunday services during Rev. Denis' furlough weeks.

Upcoming

In light of Karen St. Peter's resignation, Mary Alice and I have discussed the possibility of my learning to use Bill Pay and taking on some of those responsibilities, at least temporarily.

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

September 2024
DRE Board Report

Dear Board,

I'm just jumping back in from taking some time off after returning to regular life post-Wunder Academy of Metamorphosis. We had five glorious days of amazing adventures with incredible people. We ended up having 15 kids, ranging in age from 7 to 14. We brought in \$2700 in registration fees. I don't have a total expenditures number yet, but it was much less than what we made. We had 22 adults helping during the week and two visiting authors (Tracy Hart and Daniel Alper) came to read the books they have written. The adult volunteers and staff were simply amazing, sharing their talents, interests, enthusiasm and love with the kids and it was so beautiful to see the relationships that developed and deepened. Many of the adults chose WunderEgo names and identities. I will always call Mary Alice "Aunt-TEE" and Charlie is "Massachusetts Jones," Barbara N is "Myrio" and Linda is "Madame Hare." And there are so many more. We really created some magic that week.

I'm not sure how much detail I should go into except to say that we created beautiful crafts, explored the Saugatucket and looked at water bugs under microscopes, swam at Larkin's Pond, played cooperative games and team building challenges, had big soccer games and capture the flag games, made delicious zucchini bread, focaccia, pizza, saw awesome optical illusions and made beautiful solar prints. We also had lots of free time for exploring, playing, imagining, wondering. Many kids got into the middle school project of making weapons out of foam swords and the play fighting with them. There were many quiet hours spent crocheting, playing make-believe in the nursery, painting rocks and making wind chimes. And we ended up with a beautiful mural painted on a moveable canvas attached to poles that can be moved into a circle to create a mobile gathering place. I could definitely go on, but I will stop there.

We are having a volunteer appreciation lunch on Sept. 15th at noon in the Oneto Room where we will engage in appreciative inquiry to hear what people enjoyed about the week and worked well and where we can shift and improve for next year.

I still do not have any RE staff lined up for this year, so please put the word out. Kenneth (who worked at the Wunder Academy and is fabulous with the kids) is not sure that he can work during the school year because of his visa, but he is looking into it.

And that's about it from me. I'm looking forward to water communion and to being back together.

Lots of love,
Lee