

UUCSC Board of Directors Meeting

November 6, 2024

Oneto Room

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

Guests: Susan Pavlow and Nick Smith

Call to Order: 10:37 am by Nancy Richman

Invocation: Theme of integrity

MOTION: Nancy moves to ratify the September and October minutes as well as the October email vote regarding the UUA retirement resolution, all of which were approved via email. **PASSED** unanimously

Staff reports are appended.

Treasurer's report: Trish Kelly will chair the Finance committee. She will set up a search committee to explore hiring a bookkeeper/accountant and will focus on investments, as they may need to be tapped for additional building repairs. Empower, the Unitarian Universalist Organizations Retirement Plan, is now setup for UUCSC to use. Mary Alice is the financial coordinator for the plan. Sue Strakosch is following up on Dining 4\$\$\$ payments.

OLD BUSINESS

Report from the Music committee regarding hiring a new music director: Nick and Susan: The recommendations are in alignment with the recommendations of the Finance committee. Plans would be made to hire a part time director no earlier than February 1st, thereby giving everyone an opportunity to adjust to the absence of a long time respected and beloved director. Salary would be commensurate with the budget already allotted for the current fiscal year. It was proposed that Board appoint a search committee task force be composed of: Sara Dinklage, Chris Johnson, Michelle Stage, Jane Rubenstein, and Donna Caldwell. Rev. Denis Paul would serve as an ex officio non-voting member.

MOTION: Nancy moves that the plan for hiring a music director be accepted as presented. **PASSED** unanimously

MOTION: Nancy moves that the slate of search committee members be appointed as presented. **PASSED** unanimously

Facilities Use Guidelines: Waiting for final approval from Jean Burke as to wording.

January meeting: Since it would fall on New Years Day the meeting has been rescheduled for Thursday January 2 from 10:30 to 12:30 on Zoom.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board covenant is reviewed annually: After looking at a few recommendations it was decided to combine elements from 2 of the documents. In addition it was agreed to briefly discuss other aspects of the covenantal recommendations at each Board meeting.

Year-end giving: The Gratitude House brought \$12,000 last year. Although those dollars greatly reduced the expected deficit, there were concerns about asking too much at the time of year when many other donation requests are also made. It was decided to plan a year end ask that is more inline with the celebration of Chalice Days. Rev. Denis will be planning this with Mary Alice Kimball and Mary Fulton.

Copyright adherence: Knowledge of recent infringements caused the Board to discuss how to better educate the congregation on how to abide by copyright laws. UUCSC is held legally responsible for copyright adherence so it is valuable for everyone to be well aware of the laws that affect the use of videos, poems, music, lyrics, etc., therefore, copyright adherence will be discussed at the next Coordinating Council meeting.

Adjourned 12:30pm

Submitted by Mary Fulton, Clerk

Next Board meeting: January 2 10:30 - 12:30 pm Zoom

Next Coordinating Council: November 13 1:00 - 2:30pm - Zoom

STAFF REPORTS

Minister's Report to the Board of Directors

UU Congregation of South County

Rev. Denis Paul

October 30, 2024

Dear Members of the Board of Directors,

Since my last report to the board back in late September, I've been involved in the following worship services:

9/29 "the Magic of Ketchup," with Nancy Richman

10/6 "How We See Each Other," with Penny Hall

10/13 "Les Oubliettes," with Adrian Evans

10/27 "Guidestones and Paleovisitation," with Linda Whyte Burrell

These are my thoughts on three areas of ministry:

Worship Life

The “Guidestones” is the first of eight services in a row I will be part of. Even with a furlough week and a study week coming up, it just doesn’t feel right to not be around on those Sundays. Next week is Election Day, and for the first time in my ministry, I have been at a loss for what to say, and can’t imagine shifting that struggle onto the worship committee. So, while I will be technically be taking those two weeks as planned, I will be here on those Sundays.

Fortunately, Mike Galib is working with me and remaining flexible, so that we can have a music-filled service should we find ourselves not knowing the winner of the presidential election. Mike and I are also working together to make sure we have a little more music than usual in our services until his departure.

I am looking forward to working with the Music Director Search Committee on an ex-officio capacity. The committee should start it’s work in earnest before the end of November.

Congregational Life

As strong as my intention is to reach out to members of the congregation regarding financial giving, because of all the other demands on my time, especially around pastoral care, classes, meetings and the music director search, I have not yet had any of those meetings.

I have been supervising Lee as she continues growing the Wunder Academy. We keep generating ideas, and she keeps managing and leading volunteers to make great things happen. Personally, I’m very excited about the events we’ve thought of a “mini-Wunder Academy days,” on Sundays, with the whole congregation invited to participate, to share in the fun, and get a better understanding of what is going on. Lee and her crew will be leading at least three “Wunder Revels” to take place around Samhain, Imbolc, and Beltane, the pagan celebrations of the midway points between solstices and equinoxes. It’s a way of carrying on the work throughout the year, creating continuity and a sense of expectation.

Community Life

UUCSC made a great showing at Habitat for Humanity’s Hope Valley job site on 9/29. For a bunch of old gray hairs, we got a lot done! We’ve been pleasantly surprised by the number of non-UUCSC folks showing up for Tuesday morning Qi-Gong classes in the sanctuary, so Adrian and teacher Nancy Graham are talking about how to continue into the future, offering more classes. And the Community Sewing Space is up and running in the Oneto Room a couple Tuesdays per month.

Even though the Learning Lab was unable to secure enough students to be viable, we continue to make good use of our space while seeking new ways to reach out tot he community.

Housekeeping

My next furlough week is November 12-17; and the week of November 19-24 I will be at home studying, planning upcoming worship services, and not attending meetings, though I will be here on 11/24 for worship and available by phone or email the remainder of the week.

Since my last report, I have disbursed no funds from the Agape Fund.

In Peace,
Rev. Denis Paul

November 2024
DRE Report

Dear Board,

Sundays this month have been mostly spent downstairs and outside with families, except for this past Sunday with our beautiful Memory Tree ritual. We have a good rhythm going with about 10 kids present each week. We have free exploration time, circle/sharing time and discussion/story/activity time. We've been working on a visual covenant that we're making based on conversations about what makes our UU community and time together special and how can we each contribute to making it that way. So the kids have brainstormed ideas like "we're free to make our own choices" and "we're kind to each other" and "we listen to each other". Our next conversation will be each of us committing to uphold these ways of being with each other as our covenantal agreements.

We're planning for The Wünder Revels of Samhain this Sunday. Wünder Revels will be three times a year, close to three of the cross-quarter holidays of the pagan calendar: Samhain (10/31), Imbolc (2/1) and Beltane (5/1). The fourth cross-quarter holiday is Lammás, which is the beginning of August and near to the Wünder Academy itself! The kids will be working on their characters this Sunday and we will have a ritual of releasement in our spiral space (the mural panels that we created during the Wünder Academy). We'll also have stone soup and corn bread, yard games and a building project. We will be creating different structures during each celebration, in a placemaking effort, creating beautiful outside space. This Sunday we will be weaving a "nest" and on Imbolc we will make a bean tipi that we can then plant around on Beltane. We're asking Bob D. if we can start using the little garden space out by the parking lot. So many exciting plans in this building of Wünder culture!

And we're planning for Chalice Days at the beginning of December. Leading up to that week, we will have some projects to prepare for our celebrations. November 17th, folks are invited to stay after service and make a salt dough chalice. November 24th we will be making the 7 pointed star to hang at the back of the sanctuary for the month of December. And Dec. 3rd will be our congregational dinner to celebrate Chalice Days. We've decided that the colors of this UU celebration should be red, orange and yellow, the colors of a flame.

I'm also planning for the winter solstice. We will have the Solstice spiral labyrinth walk on the night of the actual solstice, Dec. 21st and then we will have a solstice service on Sunday the 22nd. I'm meeting with Linda, Tracy, Sally and Sarah Bell to plan this service.

Thanks for all you do!

Lee

Office Administrator Board Report, November 2024

Tree of Life

The company where we had the leaves for the tree of life engraved went out of business and donations had been collected for several leaves, which had not been produced. I found a new company, based in North Kingstown, which was able to match the font on the existing leaves and complete the work.

Announcements

We resumed production of the listing of upcoming events to be included in the order of service the first Sunday of the month. In addition, Lee created an insert for the OOS about including children in the service, which I produced.

Ongoing

I continue to coordinate scheduling for the classes and activities, 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