

Minutes
UUFM Board Meeting
October 3, 2019 6-8 p.m.

Present:

Tony Filipovitch, President
Penny Herickhoff, Vice President
Tom Little, Member at Large
Tricia Nienow, Member at Large
Andy Roberts, Member at Large
Faye Mattison, Secretary
John Knox, Treasurer
Nancy Cramblit, Past President
Rev. Rita Capezzi, Minister

Greeting and Check-In

Chalice Lighting and Board Covenant: We are a welcoming people of diverse beliefs who commit to nourish the spirit, broaden the mind, nurture the earth and build community. May this flame we kindle remind us to strive, today and every day, to love beyond belief.

Review Agenda for Adds/Revisions:

- Removed Committee Reports from the Consent Agenda. Added Proposal for Splitting Building and Grounds Committee to the agenda.

Visitor's Forum: No visitors.

Consent Agenda: Attendance, September Board Minutes, Treasurer's Reports. Removed Committee Reports from the Consent Agenda.

- **Motion to adopt the amended Consent Agenda:** Andy Roberts; Second, John Knox; approved.

Ministry Report:

- Rita will take her first Sunday off in eight weeks on October 27.
- Rita attended the Nobel Conference, but she worked during this time on church duties. She is looking forward to the Minister's Retreat on October 7-9, as well as the Harper-Jordan Symposium on black theology and liberation in late October/early November. For these last two events, she will be off the work grid in order to be fully present.
- The office computer is extremely slow, with many functional glitches, and the software is greatly outdated. The printer is near the end of its life. We do not have a laptop on site that can plug into the smart TV. The lack of a lapel mic created a problem for our recent guest speaker, Ellie Krug, and this will be a necessity for other pulpit guests.
- John will ask the Technology Team to get bids on a new computer, printer and laptop.
- **Motion to authorize Rita to purchase a lapel mic, cloud space and external storage:** Andy Roberts; Second, Penny Herickhoff; approved.
- We need to assess the way technology intersects with accessibility in the sanctuary. In addition to the above mentioned needs, the projector cart is a hazard during service, and the sound system needs attention. We have the technology to pull sermons for the website, but no expertise to do this. We might consider ways that wheelchairs and

walkers can be brought into the sanctuary without blocking the aisles. We also might consider the limitations of the current tables and chairs in the Fellowship Hall.

- Macey is making good progress as our new Children's Faith Director (CFD). A Soul Matters group meets on a monthly basis. With the overflow of youth this year, we are working on ways to give them more space.
- Ellie Krug's appearance was a great success, with 106 in attendance, 34 of whom were UU's. We received several thank-yous from those present.
- The Trans Inclusion course is generating great conversation among the few but dedicated participants.

Proposal for Splitting Building and Grounds Committee.

- Andy Roberts met with Dick Nienow to discuss the possibility of forming a new Advisory Committee to plan and prioritize projects. A second committee would perform the hands-on work. Building and Grounds members would be on both committees, but the Advisory Committee may bring in people from the outside.
- Later they will present a committee job description to the Board.
- Andy will put out feelers for persons who might be interested in participating on the Advisory Committee and for persons willing to help with projects that come up.
- Board consensus was for Andy to go ahead.

Table Talk Summary Discussion:

- Tricia had three young visitors in their 30s at her table. They talked about commitment, but felt they didn't have the time right now.
- Some people want UUFM to be a spiritual center. They also want small groups to be available during the week.
- At one table, the new people were not comfortable with being asked questions. However, this wasn't optional.
- If we do Table Talks again, it would be more productive if the questions were more specific.

Stewardship Strategic Planning:

- Discussion ensued on creating a three-year visionary plan:
 - ▷ What does our congregation want to do/be?
 - ▷ We need to articulate our vision first; then create the budget.
- Educating the congregation on our budget needs means being clear about what we're asking for, and tying it to our successes.
- Two critical points to emphasize:
 - ▷ We are making progress toward paying down our debts.
 - ▷ Stewardship is about serving our vision.
- Penny observed that these ideas will be helpful for our brochure. We could go down the Seven Principles and list our accomplishments for each one. She'll bring something for the Board to look at. Crista Bohlmann could do the brochure if we get the information to her.
- One part of a goal could explain that in a healthy congregation, 80% of the budget is covered by pledges; we are at 61%. We could set a target amount for each year to create a sense of ownership. Rita suggested that this might be a question for Phil Lund or another consultant.
- Testimonials can engage the heart: Why do I come here? Why do I give?
- Penny will convene a work group to pull together a rough draft of UUFM's short-term vision for Stewardship. The work group will include Andy Roberts, Tom Little, Penny Herickhoff and John Knox.

Budget Planning:

- Tony will ask committees to turn in their budgets by November. We will need to have the congregational budget ready by March 2020.

November Board Meeting:

- Our next Board meeting will be on **Thursday, November 7, at 6 p.m.**

Motion to Adjourn at 8 p.m.: Andy Roberts; Second, John Knox; approved.