

Minutes
UUFM Board Meeting
January 2, 2020 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 (attended via Zoom)
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: No changes.

Visitor's Forum: No visitors.

Consent Agenda: Attendance, December Board Minutes, Treasurer's Report, Committee Reports, Policy Revision for Gendered Language. Approved.

Ministry Report:

- Rita met with a group of liberal women ministers in Mankato to discuss the creation of a joint Peace Camp for our children this summer. We have funds for this in the Children's Faith Development (CFD) budget, as an alternative to Chalice Camp. Directors of Religious Education can work together. This is an intersection of EdJ (interfaith connections) and CFD.
- It is helpful to think of goals in terms of intersectional webs between groups such as EdJ, Worship and the Care Team, rather than To Do lists.
- Social justice book discussions—
 - ▷ On Wednesday, February 12, at 7 p.m., we will meet to discuss *Justice on Earth*, the 2018-2019 UUA Common Read.
 - ▷ On Thursday, April 23, at 7 p.m., we will discuss *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States*, the 2019-2020 UUA Common Read.
- Guest Ministers and Related Programs—
 - ▷ Rev. Kelli Clement will preach on Sunday, February 23, on UU efforts to change a law that restricts the right to a woman's choice over reproduction.
 - ▷ On Thursday, February 20, we will offer an evening program open to the community, with representatives of the local Planned Parenthood chapter.
 - ▷ Rev. Harlan Limpert will preach on Sunday, March 1, on UU efforts to create a law in Minnesota to allow end-of-life choices. He and Rebecca Thoman, MD, will give a presentation after the service.

- ▷ On Thursday, February 27, local doulas who companion folks as they die will present a program open to the community.
- A Greeter Celebration and Refresher will be offered on Saturday, January 25, from 1- 3 p.m. This will include a luncheon and a celebration of the ways that experienced greeters express welcome, as well as new ways to be even more welcoming. Current greeters and those interested in exploring the role of Sunday greeter are invited to attend.
- Patti Ruskey has brought the Memorial Garden into existence, and she would like to develop it further, especially with features for the children. We will schedule Sunday talks and meetings in coordination with Board topics. Coordination of hospitality discussions is critical. At some point, we will consult with Building and Grounds to get a feel for budget expectations. Previously, a landscape plan was developed regarding the outside grounds and how the Memorial Garden would fit in.
- Rita stated that stewardship leadership is more about the Board, committees and teams going first than the dollar amount.
- Having access to contributions information is especially helpful to Rita when someone has contributed but hasn't pledged. This helps her to avoid unnecessarily placing someone on a contact list regarding their membership status.
- Rita would like the one-minute "Why UUFM Matters to Me" talks to continue on Sunday mornings.

Team Recommendations:

- Board Discussion on Proposed Changes to the Rapid Response Policy (RRP), prepared by EdJ in light of their work with the Trans Team.:
 - ▷ There are two situations in which the Board and minister are pre-authorized to make a Rapid Response statement without a congregational meeting and vote. One is when the police designate an incident to be a hate crime. The other is when members of the LGBTQA+ community have experienced violence, slurs, graffiti, hate mail or other such actions which erode the safety of a group or the status of a person as inherently worthy.
 - ▷ Only the Board may authorize the use of the Rapid Response Policy. An email or phone poll of Board members (five of seven required) may be used when an RRP request becomes known.
 - ▷ We will have Table Topics on Sundays, January 12 and 19, to get people's response to the changes in the RRP.
 - ▷ **Motion to take the proposed Rapid Response Policy (RRP) language changes to the congregation for a vote at the Mid-Year Meeting:** John Knox; Second, Andy Roberts. Approved.

Membership Certification:

- Board members signed up to contact "lapsed" members who have not been attending, contributing time or contributing financially for two years. These persons will be asked if they wish to move from Member to Friend status.
- The Board discussed designating three persons as Lifetime Members, if they are receptive. Tony will contact them to see what they desire. Later we will decide how we might honor or recognize them, for example, starring their names in the directory or sending them a special certificate.
- The Board discussed possibly changing the wording to describe membership.

Mid-Year Meeting Planning:

- Congregational Discussion and Vote: Amendment to Rapid Response Policy (see above)
- Building on Our Founders' Legacy—
 - ▷ The Board Report will highlight achievements. Tricia will get information to Tony on upcoming discussion series.
 - ▷ We viewed Tony's Powerpoint presentation on the history of UUFM. Board members will contribute more pictures, and Tony will ask Linda Ganske what she has available.
- Treasurer's Report
- Congregational Discussion—
 - ▷ Visioning I—What would we be doing now if only we had the funds to do it? We will use the Dreams for Stewardship ideas/list.
 - ▷ Visioning II—In five years, how do we wish to be known in our community/region?

Operating Pledge Drive:

- Materials—
 - ▷ Brochure: Penny will Skype with Tom Little and Crista to firm it up.
 - ▷ Tony's Materials: Tony has re-worked the pledge form. Vision items will be on the back; we will get input on these at the Mid-Year Meeting.
- Calendar and Sign-Ups for Committee/Team contacts, Stewardship Testimonials and Celebration Team—
 - ▷ Sign-Up sheets were passed for Committee/Team contacts, one-minute Sunday Stewardship Testimonials and the Celebration Team.
 - ▷ Linda will print name/address labels for the pledge cards.
 - ▷ Board members will go to committees and teams in February to make the stewardship pitch and to collect pledges. Tony will compose a general script to use. Members will be given a week to turn in pledges.
 - ▷ Board members should submit their pledges before the January 26 Mid-Year Meeting. If possible, we should increase our pledges by 10%.
 - ▷ Our overall goal is \$237,000.
 - ▷ As part of a stewardship celebration, Penny suggests offering three different kinds of prizes, so everyone who pledges gets something.

Motion to Adjourn at 8 p.m.: Tom Little; Second, Faye Mattison; approved.

February Board Meeting:

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